河内和泉

今巻はウイルス編とIPS編の境目になりますが、ナオヤくんは休めるかと思えば皆に振り回され、部屋主の割に肩身が狭いという日曜日のお父さんみたいな位置に追いやられています。セルシアの前にナオヤの居場所が心配です。そして今回から遺伝子工学の天才と言われるりおちゃん先生が登場です。ちっこくて優秀な日本代表！ IPS技術を巡るシリーズ開幕です。

IZUMI KAWACHI

5

エイス EIGHTH

河内和泉

The Eighth Day of Creation

GC JOKER
エイス EIGHTH 5
河内和泉
SC

9784757532373

ISBN978-4-7575-3237-3

C9979 ¥571E

1929979005719

雑誌48124-06
定価：本体571円＋税
SQUARE ENIX.

インフルエンザ
ウイルス紛失事件も
完全に決着が着き、
落ち着きを取り戻した
エイス研究所。
だがそこへ真理を発端として、
計らずもナオヤと真理が
急接近する事態が発生!!
大人のお姉さんの魅力を目の前にして、
果たしてナオヤは…!?
大人気の真理ぱい無双編収録。
そして、物語は新展開へ。

アンケートに答えて無料待受をゲット!
&クーティメルマガ登録受付開始!!

携帯でQRコードがシアクセスしてアンケートに答えてくれた人全員に【EIGHTH】無料待受3種類をプレゼントします。またこのアンケートの最後で有料配信(300円)に応答していれば「ガンガンJOKER クーティメルマガ」へご登録頂けます。期間中JOKER本誌&コミックス情報やJOKERの表紙イラストを使った待受が無料でもらえるクーティメルマガへぜひご登録ください。

※ポンコツJOKERのクーティメルマガにご登録いただかなくても、無料待受をプレゼント致します。
※携帯電話の機種変更や故障などにより、登録内容(各種の個人情報)の変更は承りかねますのでご了承ください。また、携帯電話の機種変更時には、必ず赤外線通信(iアプリ)にて、お客様ご自身で登録データのバックアップをお取りください。
※アンケートの締め切りは2011年7月31日(日)です。
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※QRコードは㈱デンソーウェーブの登録商標です。
※iアプリ対応機種は、2007年以降に発売された機種です。

真理はU無双&新展開!!

小さな胸いっぱいに、たくさんの希望を詰めて。

無料待受3種プレゼントアンケート実施中! 詳しくはこの帯の左側へ!

河内和泉

SQ

STORY

この5巻では、真理を発病としてナオヤと真理が急接近!! 大人のお姉さんの魅力全開で、ナオヤを振り回す真理、その魅力を前にナオヤの反撃は……!? そして、物語は新展開へ、小さくて可愛い表紙の新キャラは果たして……!?

CHARACTER

ナオヤ・グラフィコ

エイス研究所の優秀な管理員。普段のお調子者な性格には欠点が…。

ルカ

とある所からセルシアを探索するように命を受けていた元探索。

セルシア

金物の活動を再び時間を進める役目を持つ、ナオヤの部屋の居候者の②!

ヒカル

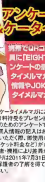
父と共にエイスへ、ナオヤの部屋の居候者の②!

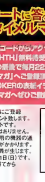
所長

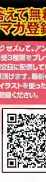
エイス研究所所長。一番もこ一番もある意味変な人。

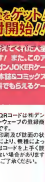
真理

所長とナオヤの補佐役、ちっちりとした年の近い女人の女性。









ガンガンモバイル

スペシャル待受を
期間限定無料配信中!!

受付期間:5/21~8/31

くわしくは、アーティカルハンペ!! 検索 または

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河内和泉

今度のプリズが出演！？の最初の仕事は、ゴロゴロ学校！？
相変わらずの大騒ぎ！？
「ゴロゴロ学校！？」の放送は、無事に終了するのか！？
そして、プリズの出演する次回の放送は！？
そんな中、プリズの出演する番組の裏で、
ある事件が発生していた！？
プリズ、ピンチ！？
プリズ、大丈夫！？
プリズ、頑張れ！？
プリズ、ファイト！？
プリズ、ファイト！？
プリズ、ファイト

5

EIGHTH
エイス

河内和泉

The Eighth Day of Creation

GC JOKER

EIGHTH 5

河内和泉

SQUARE ENIX

EIGHTH RESEARCH

EIGHTH 05

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.....
WHY ...
LET GO...
LET ME GO
NO WAY
LE-
LEMME GO!
DO

OOF
...
THE V---
THE VIRUS
...
WHAT ABOUT THE VIRUS?
IN ORDER TO FIND ME
YOU PUT OTHER PEOPLE IN DANGER!

YOU DON'T NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THAT
WHY ??
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
I DON'T WANT YOU TO REALIZE JUST WHAT A HORRIBLE WORLD THIS IS...

Operation.17

AMONG PRETENTIOUS LIES

Chief
Is it really okay to let those kids talk about this?
HMM...
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT BE THE PRODUCT OF THIS
That's true, but
There wasn't really anything wrong here... Just personal preference
So why shouldn't we have this conversation?
THERE'S NOBODY ELSE AROUND TO HEAR. AND ONLY WHAT WE-----
バタ
バタ
バタ

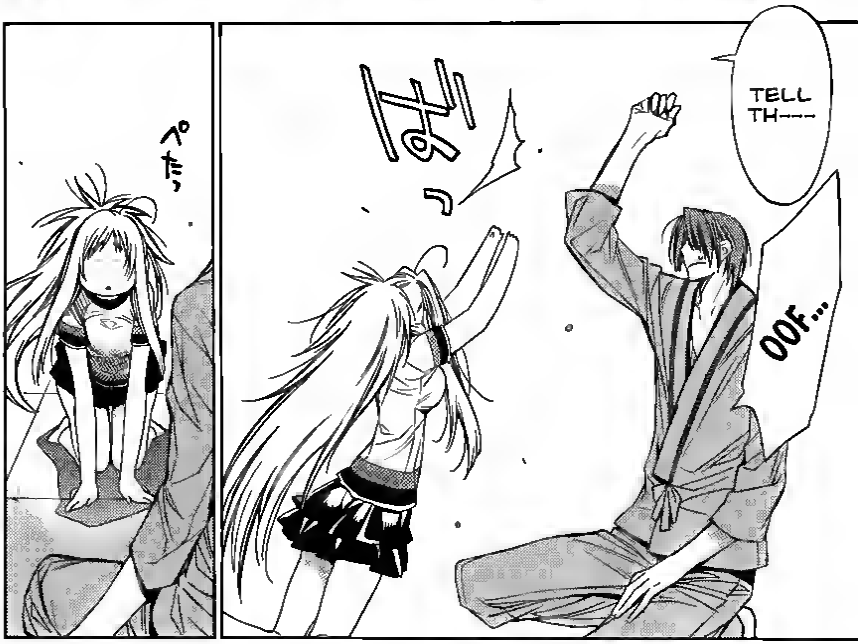
OKAY, I'M BACK!
DOCTOR SHINYA!
I TOOK CARE OF IT!
BITCH, I'M GONNA SLAP YOU
EH? WHY?
THE LA AIR-PORT AND THE MOVIE THEA-TER ...
I GOT someone to grab a helicopter
I WENT AND CHECK-ED THEM OUT

JUST AS NAOYA'S INFORMATION SAID, THE HS WAS READY,... TO BE DISPERSED
!
IT'S BEING PROCESSED BY THE CDC AND THE US MILITARY
HEY, TRINITY
SO WHERE'S THE SUSPECT?!
むむむ
むむむ
THE FBI'S ALREADY ON THEIR WAY
DELIVERING A SUSPECT IS SUCH A PAIN
WHAT?

GO BUY SOME SNACKS
WHA!?
WE AIN'T HAD NOTHIN' TO EAT
BECAUSE OF ALL THIS COMMOTION
OH... WELL, I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, ER, BUT, UM...
ぜ ワ。

NAOYA
YEAH
HURRY IT UP
……
WHYYYY!?
JUST GO ALREADY, DAMMIT!
LOOK, JUST GIVE ME A BREAK
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU HAVE TO SAY
BUT YOU'RE MAKING A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE!
LUCA-SAN…

ぎゅっ
IF IT'S ABOUT ME, I'M FINE
SO


TELL TH---
OOF...
ぺたっ

HEY!
NO...
JUST THAT
SHE JUMPED AT ME AGAIN....
CELCIA, AGAIN!
HUG HIM!!
WHA
?
O-OKAY!
NO

STOP IT!
J-
JUST LET GO, OKAY!?
THAT WAS WAY TOO EASY ...
JUST SO YOU ....
DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.....

OKAY
....THERE IS A WAY TO FIND OUT CELCIA'S WHERE-ABOUTS FROM OUT-SIDE THE FACILITY

UNIVERSITIES AND COMPANIES ... WELL, BASICALLY BIO RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
THESE ARE PLACES THAT QUICKLY EXPAND INVESTMENTS AND OPERATIONAL RESULTS
IT'S A GIVEN THAT THEY'D HAVE WAYS TO MAKE USE OF CELCIA
THAT'S WHERE I BEGAN MY INVESTIGATION
IT WAS AT A UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FACILITY IN ATLANTA
ATLANTA?
IT CAN'T BE...
.....!
IT'S THE INSTITUTE WHERE THE CDC OUTSOURCED THE MODIFIED H5N1 DEVELOPMENT

AT FIRST I ONLY KNEW THAT A LARGE AMOUNT OF CAPITAL HAD BEEN IN-VESTED
IN A COMPANY FOUNDED BY A PROFESSOR THERE
THE ONE WHO CREATED H5N1—

UM ...
DON'T WORRY
I SEE
THE VACCINE SAMPLE AND DATA ARE IN THERE
...YEAH
IT WILL BEGIN INFECTING PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY" SIDE IN ASIA. SINCE THAT'S THE "HOME" OF H5
THIS IS AN ESTIMATE. BUT
By then we'll be able to ship the finished vaccine in bulk
Then around the northern hemisphere, Europe and North America--

...SOME KIND OF DEAL ABOUT H5N1....
IT'S AN INFLUENZA VIRUS... THIS STUPIDITY
DOESN'T APPEAR TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH CELCIA—
...Though if
!
Celcia were there we could make our preparations more quickly
"Celcia"?
YOU DON'T KNOW? SHE'S AN ITALIAN GIRL
IT SEEMS SHE HAS THE ABILITY TO MAKE LIVING THINGS GROW FASTER

FOR VACCINE PRODUCTION WE'LL USE CHICKEN EGGS, BUT CREATING IT BY CELL CULTURE WILL TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS
WELL, STILL...
WHAT'S MORE, IF THE FORECAST FOR THE INFLUENZA SPECIFICALLY, IT'LL ALL BE A WASTE
IT'LL BE FINE. THE H5N1 WILL DEFINITELY BECOME PANDEMIC
コト
コト
WHO IS IT?
!

I'M SURE THAT.....
I HAD A GUARD POSTED--
WHERE IS CELCIA?
I DON'T KNOW! HER VERY EXISTENCE IS MERELY A RUMOR

WHO IS THIS MAN... AND WHERE IS HE FROM?
ゴゴゴ
ズルル
!?
ANSWER ME
ER... AT-
HE'S A MAN FROM ATLANTA KRATOS CO.--

A VACCINE MANUFAC-TURING COMPANY
EH...?

I JUST WANTED TO COLLECT EVIDENCE, BUT...
All I heard was boring shit
H... HEY!
SO IT WASN'T YOU, BUT SOME OTHER GUYS WHO WERE SPREADING THE VIRUS AROUND?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE UP TO. THAT WAS NOT PART OF MY MISSION
NOR DID I CARE... BUT
IF I WERE TO GUESS, THEN YES
WHY WOULD THEY ....?
NO WAY
IT'S A SIMPLE CASE OF "PUTTING OUT THE FIRE YOU STARTED"
IN SHORT--

IT'S SO THEY CAN...
SELL THE VACCINE ...?
I DON'T KNOW--
I CAN'T PROVIDE... CONCRETE PROOF
BUT I DID IMPEDE THEM A BIT
I TOOK THE H5 IN ORDER TO FLUSH OUT CELCIA'S WHERE-ABOUTS

THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I DID ASSAULT THE FACILITY
AND I DID PLAN TO DISPERSE IT IF NAOYA DIDN'T TELL ME WHERE CELCIA WAS
IF A PUNISH-MENT IS DE-CLARED, I WILL ACCEPT IT
AAAH --
YOU'RE CRYING AGAIN...!
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO LET YOU HEAR THIS

NO!
IL IL
I-
I'M NOT CRYING!
YES YOU ARE...
I'M NOT CRYING !!
---- LIKE I SAID, THAT CRYING
TRINITY-SAN...
WORKED TO DEVELOP IT FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE...
HEY...

THAT TALE YOU JUST TOLD
NO PART OF IT WAS A LIE, RIGHT?
SO YOUR ALLEGATIONS TO THE CDC.... WERE LIES
"THE ONE WHO STOLE THE VIRUS IS THE RESEARCH FACILITY WHERE CELCIA IS"--
I KNOW THAT!
I'M JUST NO GOOD AT.... LYING

CHIEF!
Ehh
oh
WHAT IS IT ...?
YOU'RE MAD AT ME TOO...
HAVE HIM MAKE A DEAL
What ...?
IF THIS IDIOT WENT THROUGH AN INTERROGATION, AND YOU'RE WONDERING IF HE'D REPEAT ALL THAT....
Idiot?
HE'D STAY SILENT

WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE AS A TRADE?
THOSE OTHER GUYS
DON'T APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF THE INFORMATION HE BROUGHT WITH HIM!
LETTING IT HAPPEN THAT WAY WOULD JUST BE A WASTE

LUCA IS CLEARED OF CHARGES
HE RATS OUT THE GUYS WHO HAD THE HS AND VACCINE DATA, AND

YOU'RE PRETTY EASYGOING THERE...
WRONG
I'M PISSED OFF
NAOYA ...
THIS WILL BE OUR EXCHANGE
CAN HE PROVIDE EVIDENCE?
!
IF NOT, THEN IT'S A NO-GO

HEY... YOU DON'T HAVE ANY-THING?
CONVER-SATIONS, PHOTOS, STUFF LIKE THAT ....?
NOT REALLY
C'MON, YOU'RE A SPY AREN'T YOU?!
YEAH... I HAVE WIRETAP RECORDS
LIKE HELL YOU DO!!
NO... USING WIRETAPS AS EVI-DENCE IS...
HIKARU
NAOYA
COME OUTSIDE A MOMENT
TAPPING IS A BIT EXTREME

THE OLD BOY HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WORSE THAN THAT BIT OF TERRORISM
HE DISPERSED IT AT BERKELEY,
BUT
NOTHING ELSE
THAT'S FINE
WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT MAKING THAT DEAL.....
BUT THAT "NOTHING" ...
DR. SHINYAAA!
I BOUGHT 'EM!!

WHA.... JUST HOW MANY DID YOU BUY?
???
EH? ER, BUT... NOBODY'S EATEN AND....
TRINITY-SAN....
EH?
PLEASE LEND ME YOUR PHONE

OKAY, BUT...
? ? ?
'KAY!
BEEP... BEEP...

HEY WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
ON THE OTHER HAND, CHIEF... WHO HAS THE EVIDENCE THAT LUCA "DID IT"?
HUH?!

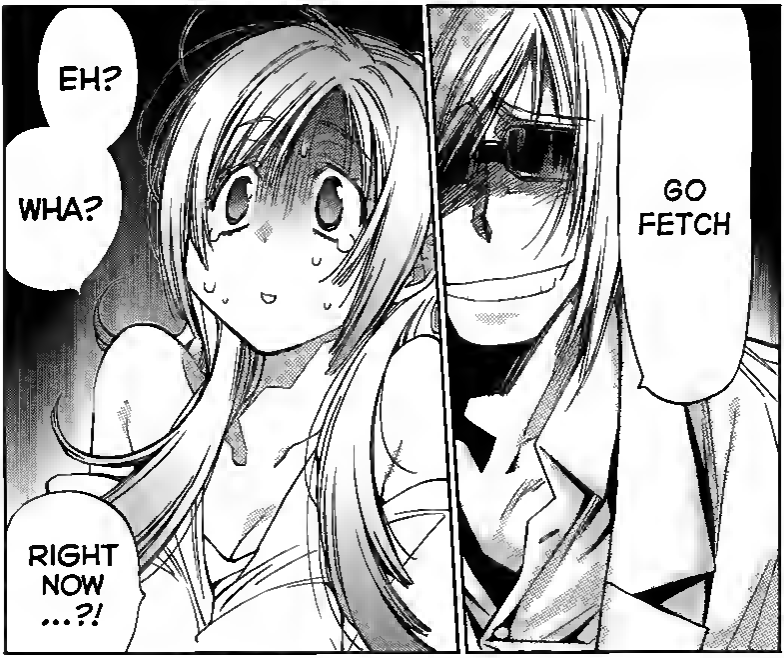
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KNOW LUCA DISPERSED THE HS AT BERKELEY
ARE JUST TRINITY-SAN AND ME
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW HIM
beep
NEXT ARE THE IMAGES ON THIS PHONE, BUT
WHAT?
beeeeeep
NAO-...
!
NAH, NOTHING
THERE'S NOBODY AT THE BERKELEY INSTITUTE WHO SAW LUCA...

Well ...
Naoya-kun--
GIMME
YOUR WAY IS JUST TOO HALF-HEARTED
HEH HEH ...
EH
OOPSIE
WHY YYY Y?!
HOLDITHOLD ITHOLDITHOLD IT THERE'S DATA IN THERE THAT I HAVEN'T SUBMITTED YET!!!
THERE
SORRY, I JUST HATE YOU

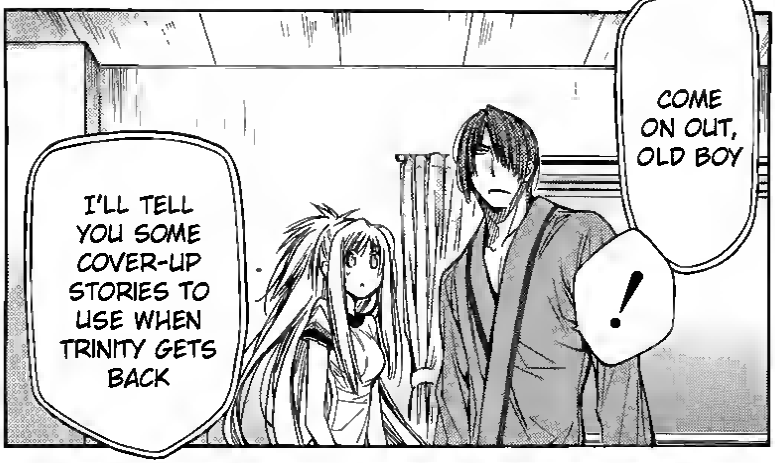
AND IF SOMETHING DID JUST GET LOST HERE, WHOSE FAULT IS IT?
HMM?
あたふた
?
?
?
!?
F...
FINE. MORE IMPORTANTLY
I'M TAKING THE CRIMINAL WITH ME!

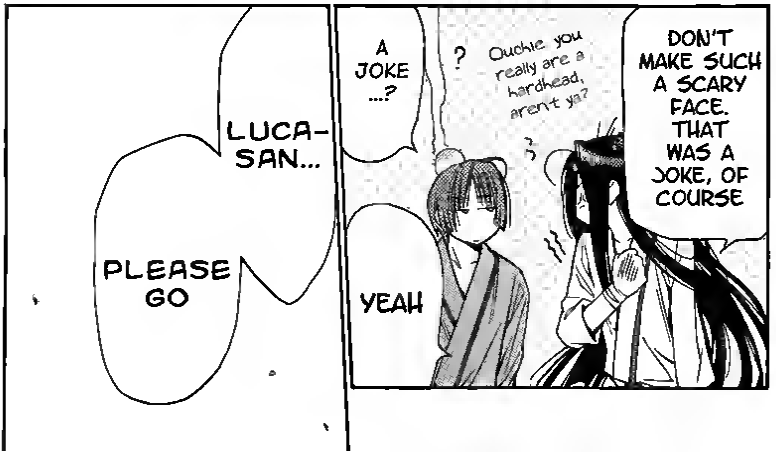
HEY, OLD BOY
WH.... WHAT IS IT?
I DID IT ALL PROPERLY
Hey are you listening?
HEY, HEY, BEFORE THAT
DON'T YOU HAVE A BIT MORE WORK TO FINISH?

WHERE'S THAT VACCINE DATA YOU "JUST HAPPENED TO STUMBLE ACROSS" RIGHT NOW?
.....
I LEFT IT WITH A CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NEW YORK
"Stumbled across"?
? New York?
NEW YORK?
THAT'S RIGHT

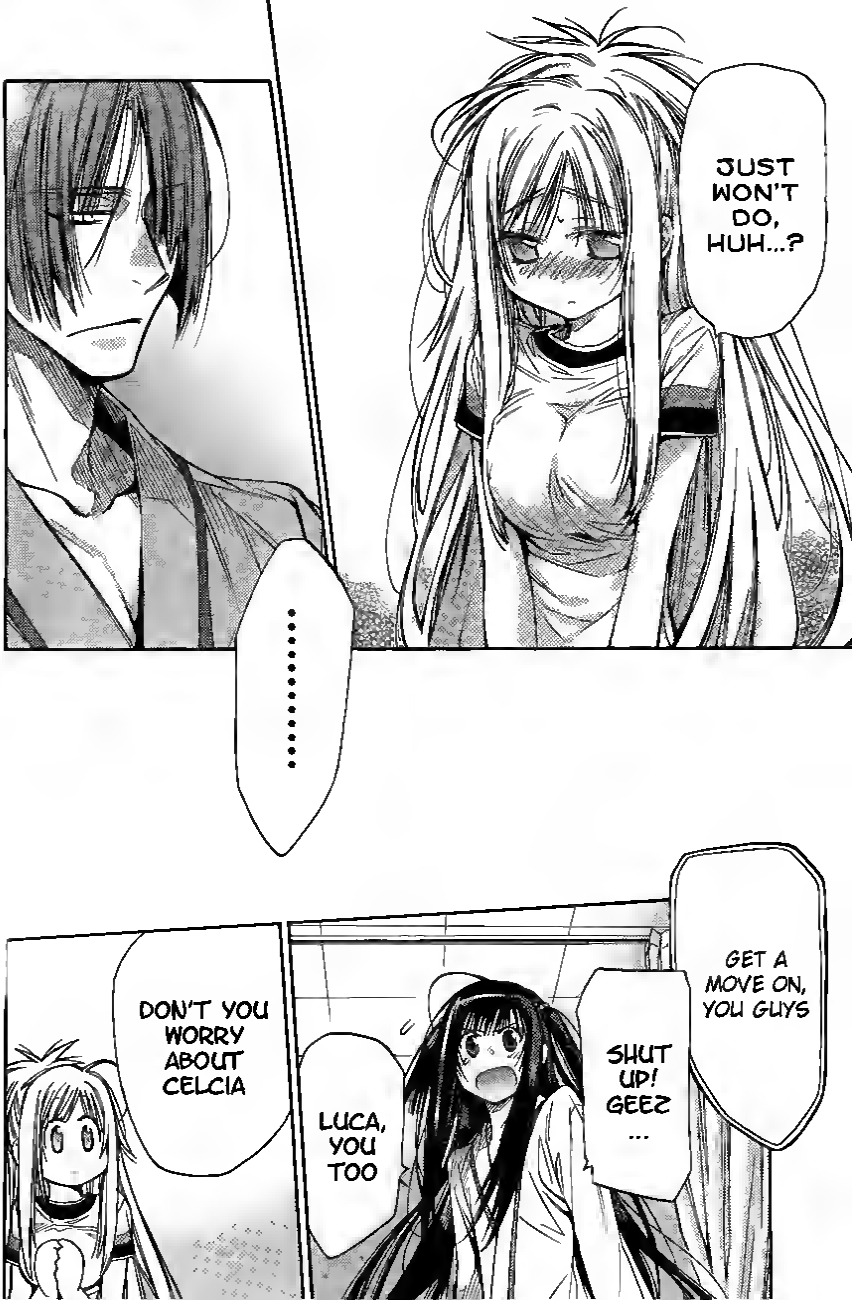

GO FETCH
EH?
WHA?
RIGHT NOW ...?!

That'll be 12 hours, round trip
I'M SOOOO SORR YYY!!
NO BACK-TALK!!
THAT'S PLENTY
YOU'RE AWFUL
AM I?
YOU'RE NOT SO BAD YOURSELF


COME ON OUT, OLD BOY
!
I'LL TELL YOU SOME COVER-UP STORIES TO USE WHEN TRINITY GETS BACK


DON'T MAKE SUCH A SCARY FACE. THAT WAS A JOKE, OF COURSE
Ouchie you really are a hardhead, aren't ya?
?
A JOKE ...?
YEAH
LUCA-SAN...
PLEASE GO

HEY
YOU KNOW, I
CELCIA ...
SD... I DDN'T KNOW WHAT TD DD
DR WHAT YDU DID, AND SUCH
LIKE WHD DID WHAT
REALLY, I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING
IT'S WON-DERFUL
BUT THAT KIND OF THINKING
AND IN FACT STOPPED IT FROM SPREAD-ING,
THE THOUGHT THAT YOU DIDN'T DISPERSE THE VIRUS

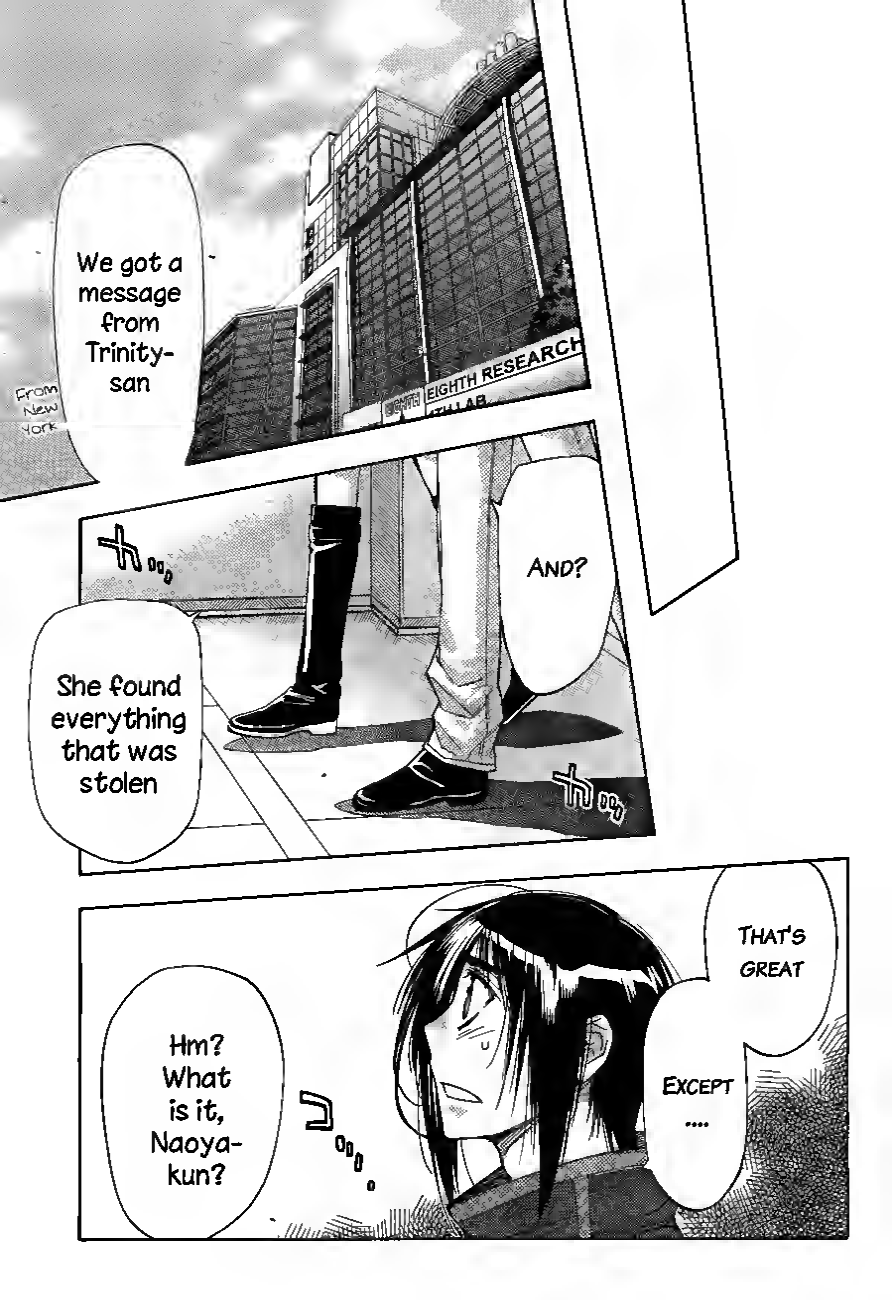

JUST WON'T DO, HUH...?
.....
GET A MOVE ON, YOU GUYS
SHUT UP! GEEZ ...
LUCA, YOU TOO
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT CELCIA

AS LONG AS I'M HERE
RIGHT?
IT'S FINE ...?
HIKARU-SAN, YOU'LL STAY IN THE ROOM WITH ME?!
Y.... YEAH
I'M HAPPY
I'M SOOOOO HAPPY!
HOLD IT... LUCA'S GLARING AT ME WITH THAT SCARY LOOK

NO...

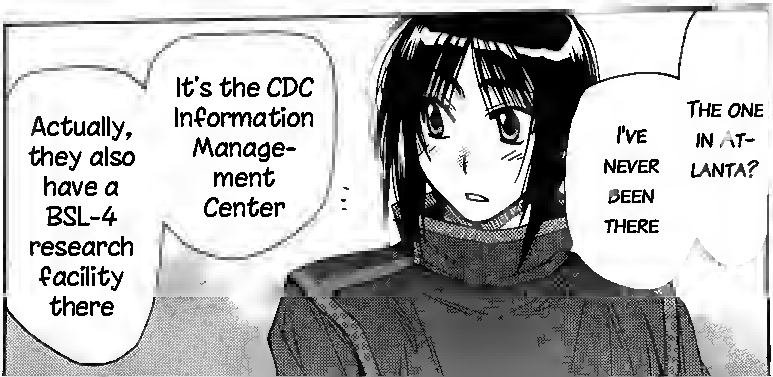
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU

AS LONG AS CELCIA'S UNHARMED, THAT'S FINE...


We got a message from Trinity-san
From New York
EIGHTH RESEARCH
AND?
She found everything that was stolen
THAT'S GREAT
EXCEPT ....
Hm? What is it, Naoya-kun?

I DON'T THINK HE HATES TRINITY-SAN QUITE SO MUCH
The Chief?
うーむ
YEAH
WELL SHE MAY BE A BIT ABSENT-MINDED
Kinda
BUT SHE REALLY TRIES HER BEST

SHE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY SMART, ISN'T SHE?
She is
I've heard that as well
...Naoya-kun, do you know about the CDC home office?

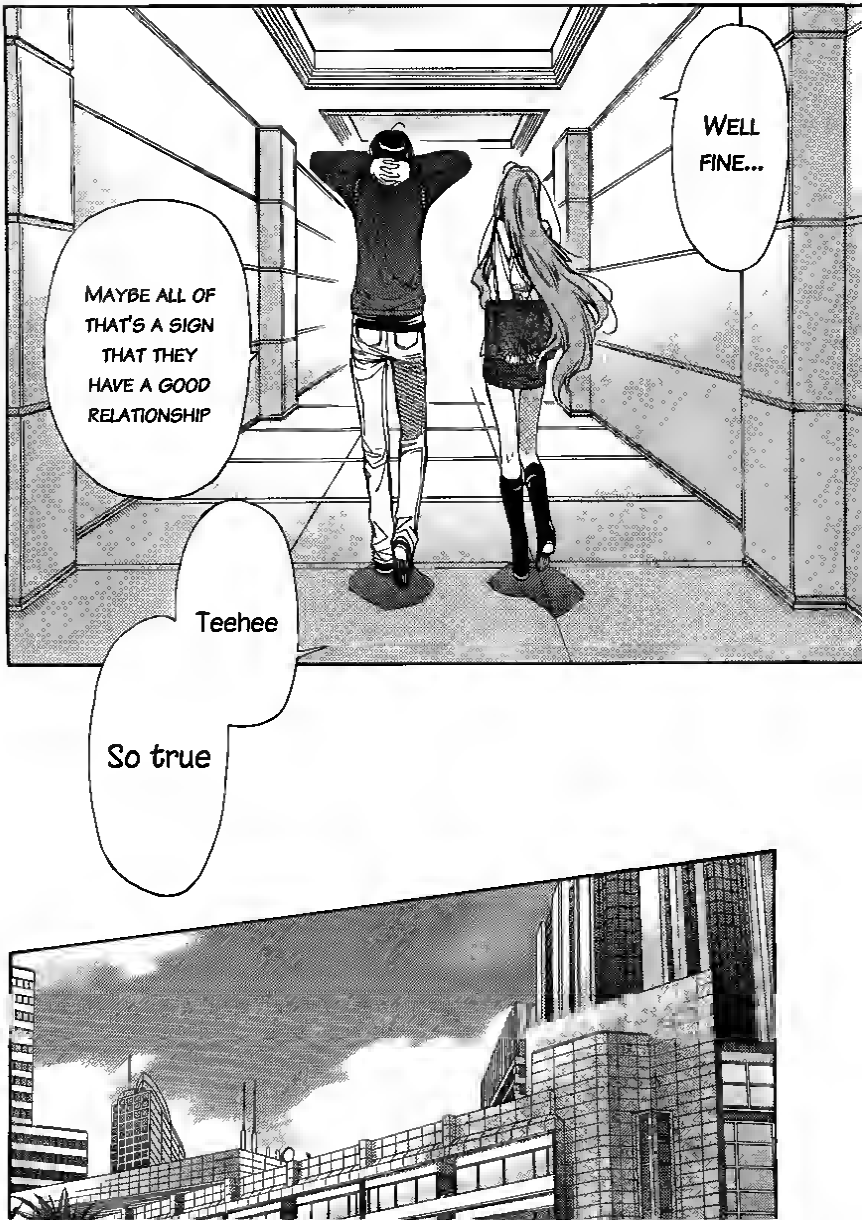

THE ONE IN ATLANTA?
I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE
It's the CDC Information Management Center
Actually, they also have a BSL-4 research facility there

So it should be okay if they do the research and development of the H5 vaccine there
Yup
EH ...?
They have so many other viruses to deal with!
EH
It's because "just another influenza virus"... has a low priority
WHY?
But they can't
The vaccine is only for prevention, and side effects are rare
It strikes very few people. It's not profitable. Nobody wants to make it
But in reality it's a virus that can easily be pandemic
If there's not enough, people get upset. If there's too much, people get upset

How-ever
She expressed just how much that research is needed
How long are you guys going to be on Antly?
That in particular
The budget hasn't really addressed it, you know
But that's just...
Say, Naoya-kun...
Don't you think that if the H5 spread it'd be a good thing?
Mari-san!!
That's not what I meant
I just wanted to say that she's an important person

The Chief understands that too

On the phone even?
If he hated her, why would he call upon her?
.....
.....


WELL FINE...
MAYBE ALL OF THAT'S A SIGN THAT THEY HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP
Teehee
So true

Whew, I'm ready to collapse
FINALLY
MY ROOM'S BEEN FEELING SO FAR AWAY...
THIS AGAIN ...?
気にしない! No problem
CAUTION
KEEP OUT
Do not enter 立入禁止
Oh right blood-stains
I'M HOME--ER,
HEY, HIKARU, CELCIA---
I BROUGHT PASTRIES...

HEY
AS I THOUGHT, IT'S YOU...
WAA AAAA AH!!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, IDIOT?
ガチャガチャ
WEREN'T YOU TOLD TO GO WITH THE CHIEF!!
THE IDIOT IS YOU
THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE PERSON IN QUESTION TO BE THERE FOR A NEGO-TIATION
NO NO NO!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN! WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
IF YOU MUST ASK...
IT SEEMS THIS IS YOUR ROOM
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE ...

Ah -
So that's it
WHY IS IT THAT CELCIA IS ALSO IN THIS ROOM?
DAMN PEST !!!
I TOLD YOU TO JUST LEAVE IT TO ME, SO GET LOST, STUPID
ああもめんどくさい奴だな
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU TELLING ME ANYTHING
DIE!
YOU BOYS SHUT UUUUP!!
ゴゴゴ

04
EIGHTH

TL/TLC: Castellan
Typesetter: Cloud04
Cleaner: Zack

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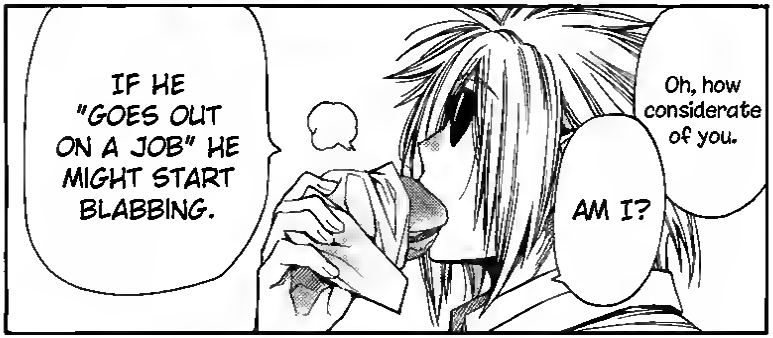
AAA AAH!
DAMN... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GEEZ.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
QUIET, YOU! YOU'LL GO BALD.
I'M NOT GOING BALD!!
IF I GO BALD, YOU WILL TOO! 'CAUSE WE'RE BROTHERS!!
NO, I WON'T.
What are you talking about?
!
MARI-SAN---

Actually you get it from your mother
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE GENES THAT MAKE ONE BALD.
Oh.
NO!!
IT'S THAT EIGHTH RESEARCH IS DOING TOO MANY THINGS ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE!
AND ABOUT CELCIA TOO----
AND YOU'RE HARBORING THE CRIMINAL THAT STOLE THE H5 VIRUS!
AND USED OTHER COMPANIES' INHIBITOR DRUGS! AND WHAT ABOUT OUR OWN VACCINE?!
MARI, GET ME A COFFEE.
Run away!
Now, now...
NII-
SAN!

Here you go, Ryuuichi-san.
Do you want sugar?
AH, YEAH.
ER, NO...
I'll remember that.
Awww
C'mon, Chief.
Quit playing with your chair.
.....

OH YEAH, WHAT'S NAOYA DOING?
He's on stand-by in his room.
You have some task for him...?
HE'S HURT. LET HIM REST.


Oh, how considerate of you.
AM I?
IF HE "GOES OUT ON A JOB" HE MIGHT START BLABBING.

HE'S WOUNDED. HE'S USELESS FOR SECURITY.
RIGHT NOW EVEN MARIPPE HERE COULD BEAT HIM, COULDN'T YA?
NII-SAN, YOU'RE BEING RUDE TO THE LADY.
Oh my.

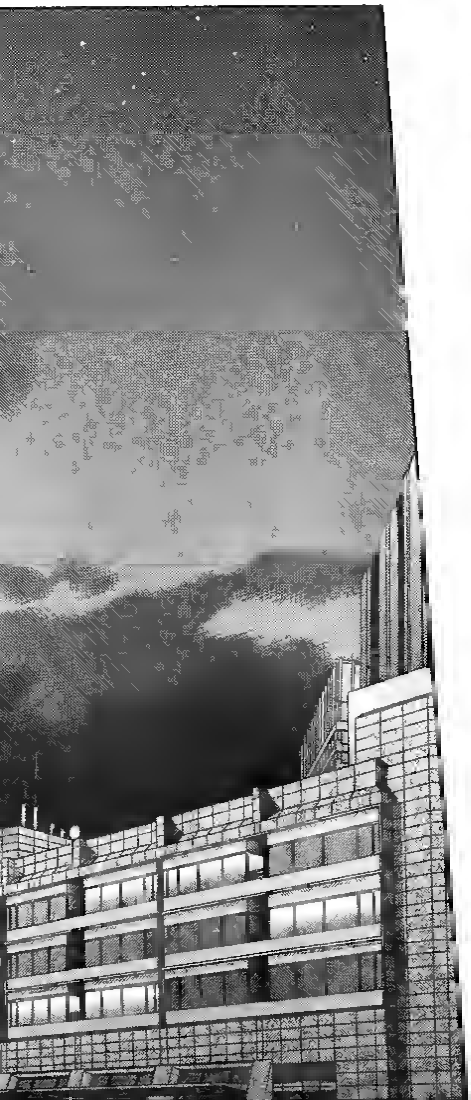
I've never lost to Naoya-kun.
BOING
... YEAH, YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE.
What's that?
I'll beat you.

Operation.18 NIGHT OF THE WITCH 1

オペレーション

WELL THEN,
I'LL GO BACK TO THE HOME OFFICE.
Ah, yes. Understood.
This time it was disaster all over, huh?
Thanks for the hard work, Ryuuichi-san.
NO... I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
AND YOU TOO, MARI-SAN. I HEARD YOU WERE RECOVERING.
WHAT IS MY BROTHER THINKING?
HE SHOULD HAVE YOU ON DOWNTIME...
It's quite fine. I'm the one who said I would go out.
Thank you very much.

.....
MARI-SAN
Yes?
UM...
DON'T YOU WANT TO COME TO THE HOME OFFICE ...?



Eh...?

To do what? You mean right now?

...NO,

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT ...

...AH.
UM...
Awaah
SORRY, HIKARU-SAN
I'M... I'M REALLY BAD AT DOING THE LAUNDRY.
EH?
I'M NOT GOOD AT FOLDING CLOTHES AT ALL.
THAT'S NOT REALLY HOW IT IS, BUT ...
Um...
...YOU?

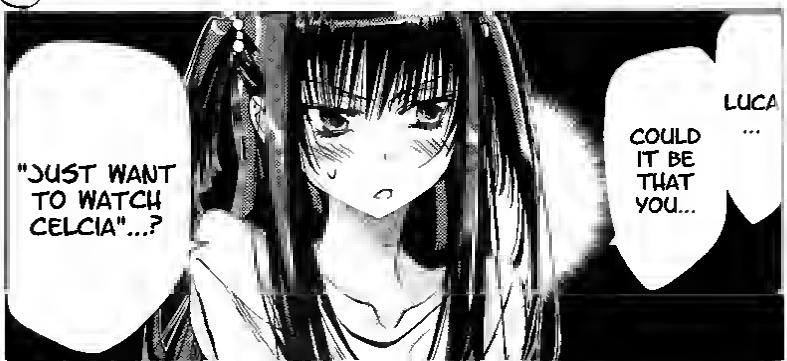
YOU'RE A RUDE ONE. SCRAM!
.....
A body-guard must keep his eyes on his subject.
A GUARD IS EXACTLY WHAT WE DON'T NEED!
What'll you do if something happens?
Quit looking at Celia like a devil
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN!
AAAH, I FEEL REFRESHED.
は!
SURE ENOUGH, A BATH HIT THE SPOT.
PUT ON SOME PANTS ---!
DIE.
SORRY!

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU GUYS WASHED THEM ALL, SO YOU'VE GOT 'EM!
YOU CAN JUST WEAR THE ONES YOU HAD ON BEFORE!
Oh, right!
Are you all right?
ふぅ
YOU MUSTN'T SHOOT GUNS IN THE ROOM!
……
ス…
I DON'T WANT IT!!
What kind of logic is that?!

From now on, I'll follow your lead.
LISTEN TO WHAT I TELL YOU.
WHAT?
YOU, WHO'S ALWAYS WATCHING?
You have no delicacy.
...HOW DID I END UP BEING THE LOWEST HERE?
FOR NOW, SIT DOWN.
Sit Boy!
I'M USED TO STANDING.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DOING IT OUT OF COMPASSION.
YOU'RE OVERBEARING. IT'S SCARY!
Aaah, Fruit-Milk is so tasty
ISN'T THAT ALL PART OF HIS JOB?
Hmm...
IT'S THE VATICAN AND ALL THAT, AND... TO BE A GUARD YOU HAVE TO BE A BIT INTIMIDATING, DON'T YOU?

I don't intend to be so intimidating.
.. When I'm not in the Vatican,
HUH?
WE DON'T NEED YOU. WE ALREADY HAVE A GUARD HERE.

NORMALLY THEY PAY MORE ATTENTION TO SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE THAN THEIR OWN TARGET, HUH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
Like when you see a presidential parade.
Ah, Secret Service.
YEAH... SAY, DON'T BODYGUARDS OBSERVE ALL AROUND INSTEAD OF AT THEIR OWN CHARGE?
YEP.


"JUST WANT TO WATCH CELCIA"...?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU...
LUCA ...

Why?
EH?
ER... HUH?
Why would you say such a thing?
WH... WHY, YOU ASK ...?
IF YOU DON'T WANNA ANSWER, I CAN GET CELCIA...
...Okay.
I get it.
Um...
YOU MIGHT SAY YOU'RE CONCER-NED.
Could it be you'd answer like that...?
Concer-ned?
About what?

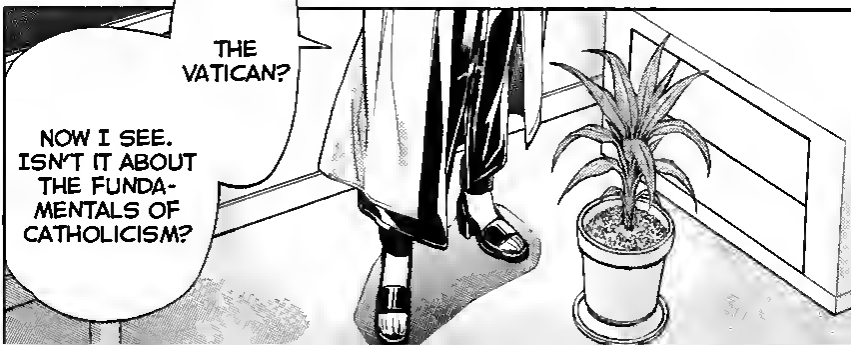
I'm concerned.
EH?!
AH-
IS-
IS THAT SO?!

!!
Why is Celcia wearing clothes that show her legs?
Of course.

JUST "WHERE" ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT?!
On the other hand, why are you NOT concerned?!
You're an unmarried maiden, after all!
WHAAA?!
HOW STUPID ARE YOU!? I CAN WEAR ANYTHING I WANT, CAN'T I?!
DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE WEIRD EYES, JERK!
Outdated B.S!
Wrong guy!
You blockhead!
Tell that to him!!
WAH! I'M GETTING DRAGGED INTO IT.
Like, for starters, why are you in the room of an unmarried man?
If something goes wrong, what will you do?
IN THAT CASE, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SUSPICIOUS THINGS.

..I JUST DON'T GET LUCA'S OUTDATED SENSIBILITY.
You have to get along!
But
EVEN MY DADDY WOULDN'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT NOWADAYS.
What would he say?
...AAAH, THINGS SEEM TO HAVE CALMED DOWN NOW, HUH?
Uh!

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT VATICAN GUARDS, THEN IT'S NOT EXACTLY OLD-FASHIONED, IS IT?
It's like someone saying "I'll become a shrine maiden"
NO.
AM I WEIRD, NAOYA?


THE VATICAN?
NOW I SEE. ISN'T IT ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM?

THOSE GUYS ARE TOTAL PRUDES ABOUT PREMARITAL SEX,
SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
PREMARITAL SEX?
PREMARITAL SEX?
HMM?
?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT! AND JUST HOW IS IT YOU JUST HAPPENED TO DROP IN?!
AH, DOCTOR ANGELA.
W-WAIT, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?! SINCE WHEN?!
JUST NOW?
THE WINDOW WAS OPEN.

Please use the door! It's dangerous.
Don't say that... I have my own circumstances.
Isn't it?
Which would mean he hasn't been watching us with filthy eyes.
In short, Luca's got a thick head.
'Cuz of religion?
Actually, I thought... that Luca was in love with Celcia.
Eh?
Maybe I was wrong.
Maybe his protection of Celcia really is just his mission.

GETTING THOSE FEELINGS MIXED UP CAN MAKE YOU ANGRY,
ESPECIALLY WITH A GUARD'S MISSION.
milk
...THAT'S JUST PLAIN UNHEAL-THY.
ふぅ
CATHOLICS ARE SO STRICT THAT THEY ACT AGAINST THE LAWS OF NATURE.

EH?
?
HM? LOOK, LIKE I SAID,
HAVING SEX THAT IS NOT FOR REPRO-DUCTIVE PURPOSES IS "UN-NATURAL", SO IT FOLLOWS THAT
THE VERY CONCEPT OF "PREMARITAL SEX" MAKES NO SENSE.
What's unnatural about it?
HUH?
EH?
EXACTLY. IN SHORT-

PLANTS (I.E. NATURE) DON'T USE CONTRA-CEPTIVES, DO THEY?
Mechanism of Fertilization (cross-section image)
Pollen
Ovule
SO WHEN CONTRA-CEPTION IS REQUIRED, THE SEX ITSELF IS PREVENTED.
...THAT'S IT, MORE OR LESS.
D-DON'T LUMP US IN WITH VEGE-TAB-LES!
AND THAT'S NOT EVEN WHAT THIS CONVERSA TION IS ALL ABOUT, IS IT?!
EH?! HOLD IT-- SO, WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU DO THAT?
DON'T GET SO FLUS-TERED.
HAVEN'T I SAID SO MANY TIMES BEFORE? HUMANS ARE SUCH A PAIN.
Aaah, total PITAs
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO HAVE THIS CONVER-SATION.
HEY, SHOUNEN.
YES?

I'M GOING TO WASHING-TON.
COME WITH ME.
HUH...
WHA?!
ER, R-- RIGHT NOW?!
EXACTLY.
I HAVE TO GO REPORT TO CENTRAL ON THAT MATTER OF THE TEOSINTE FOUND PREVIOUSLY.
TH-THAT'S... WELL, I DON'T MIND... BUT ...
IT'S ALREADY NIGHT.
YOU CAN'T FLY AT NIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RIDING IN PLANES.
What a pain.
Member of the Shiitoiwa Someone Else Around Group

No, you can...
Dr. Angela!
So here you were after all!
What route did you take to get here?!
MARI-SAN.
Sorry, Naoya-kun. It's okay.
Doctor.
If it's about your escort, we've made proper arr-angements,
so please return to the research lab at once.

EH?
NO.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU "NO"?
IF IT'S NOT THE SHOUNEN, I'M NOT GOING!
Erm... but Naoya-kun has the day off.
NO WAY !!
Other young guards are quite excellent.
I DON'T NEED "EXCEL-LENT"!
IF IT'S ANYONE ELSE, I'M NOT GOING!!

おぁー
I WANT THE SHOU-NEEE-EEEEN!
……
I'LL GO, MARI-SAN.
Uh... Yeah... Ummm.
IT'S OKAY. IF IT'S AS AN ESCORT,
I'LL GO.
... Yeah, okay.
Under-stood.
DOCTOR.

RIGHT TO SLEEP !!
HOW... WON-DER-FUL!!
...What a turbulent room this is, and Celcia is in it.
What could this mean ?
How carelessly lax, to have so many people here.

How are we going to sleep?
WHA?!
There's only one bed.
IF IT'S GIRLS TO-GETHER, THEY CAN SHARE.
Don't follow us.
LET'S GO TO SLEEP TOO. IT'S LATE.
YEAH.
Eh?
Luca's such a pain.
Hey.
I must ensure her safety.
Geez you've gone past doting father and right to old man.
Lying down or standing up
FINE, THEN WHY DON'T YOU SHARE A BED WITH CELCIA?
Still, somehow it feels like you're groping Celcia's chest.
DON'T YOU DARE LOOK!
If Celcia's fine with it
Lying down.
Stand-ing up.
びしゃっ
OF COURSE IT'S NOT FINE! IT WAS A JOKE!
YOU'RE SCARY!

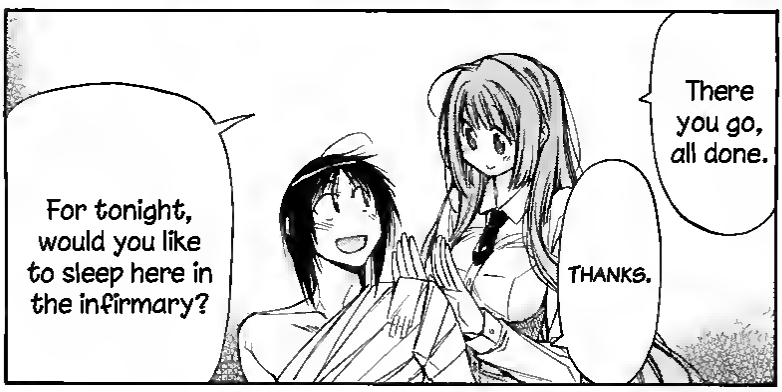
WITH A THICK HEAD.
He's a guard too, right?
It's funny ...
WHAT IS IT?
...HE'S AWESOME, IN SO MANY WAYS.
Isn't that how he sees it?
YEAH.
Oh my, it's an ironclad principle to "Not lay a hand on the one you protect".
UM, HEY.
YEAH, YOU COULD PUT IT THAT WAY.

...What is it?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAND WATCH OVER ME ALL THE TIME, LUCA-SAN.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU'RE USED TO IT, IT HAS TO BE TOUGH, RIGHT?
PLEASE, GET SOME SLEEP.
AH... THAT'S RIGHT.
WHERE WILL YOU SLEEP?
...The Royal Guards are bodyguards,
so they manage just fine for some time without sleep.
And then, we're trained to sleep anywhere without difficulty.
BUT...

Don't be concerned,
for I have found the most horrid of sleeping bags.
AH!
GIVE IT BACK! HEY!
It's even something I got from Mari-san!
Oh my...
HOLD- YOU JERK-
ISN'T THAT MY SLEEPING BAG!?
Hmph! You fool
First come, first served.
HEEEY!
You go stand guard outside.

THEY'VE FINALLY
It's my room...
TAKEN IT OVER...!!
EIGHTH RESE
TH
P
Isn't it nice that people have come together in your room?
WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

So, like a boy
THERE ARE TIMES LIKE THAT, YES.
I...
Or would you reeeally rather be all alone?
NO, NO, BUT...
...NOT.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE KICKED OUT!
That's true.


There you go, all done.
THANKS.
For tonight, would you like to sleep here in the infirmary?

YEAH.
I'll tell Luca to not kick you out.
...NAH, TELLING HIM PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANY EFFECT.
Oh, looks like we'll have to take lengthy precautions ...
He's in love with Celcia, right?
Or could it be that escort work is his priority?
YEAH...

...I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND.
HIKARU'S LIKE "DON'T YOU LIKE HER?",
but Luca himself is focused on his work.
I DON'T THINK HE KNOWS IT HIMSELF.
Oh...
IF HE PRIORITIZES HIS MISSION,
WON'T HE HAVE TO TAKE CELCIA?
AT THE VERY LEAST HE'D REPORT "I'VE FOUND HER".

BUT HE HASN'T DONE SO YET.
...WHAT DOES HE WANT TO DO?
...If they find out, they'll take the offensive.
INDEED...
scary...
Naoya-kun,
will you protect me too?
SAY WHAT?

Why would Mari-san say that?
Kinda scary
HOLD... WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON ALL OF A SUDDEN?
So?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ISN'T IT A GIVEN THAT I WOULD?

I wonder if that's true.
It's not just my problem
IF I DIDN'T PROTECT YOU, THEY WOULD ALL KILL ME.

Here, a futon.
THANKS FOR THIS ...
UM... I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT THIS IS FOR...
I thought I'd stay here too.

Here we go.
HUH?
We're sinking
EH?
HUH?
HOLD IT---
Scoot over a bit more.

WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE.
もぞ
EH?
Hey-
もぞ
EH-
EEEH?! WHY?!
Does your shoulder hurt?
PRETTY MUCH, YES,
What-what what's this wonderful scent??
BUT IT'S OKAY; IT WORKS.
What are you saying?
Your voice is so loud

...Let's sleep together.
EH...?
I wonder if you remember the promise you made before.

04
EIGHTH

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Typesetter: Cloud04
Cleaner: Zack
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Operation.19
Night of the Witch ②

!
Even though I said "do it" like that,
I guess you'd hate it, after all...

Other kinds of preparation...
HEY.
I DON'T HATE IT AT ALL, JUST, LIKE, IS MY HEART READY FOR IT, STUFF LIKE THAT.
EEEEEH?!
NO, ER-
OW OWOWOW- OWOWIE!!!
TOUCH
Uh
Geez
"SLEEP", Naoya-kun.
I GET IT!
REMOVE YOUR HAND!
She really did that, she's awful!
HOLD IT!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

ER, WHAT?!
I said we're sleeping together, didn't I?
Which is lying flat till you go to sleep...
THAT'S NOT WHAT THAT MEANS!!
SFX: WHOAAAA
Okay,
then you're in the middle of escort duty.
EH?
You're protecting me.
FROM WHAT!?

I'm being targeted by aliens.
WHAT THE HELL?!
I'm kidding.
I KNOW!
Geez nothing but lies!
HELL, IN THAT KIND OF SITUATION, MY HAND MOVES ON ITS OWN!
Oh
Is that so?

I...
I GET IT, I GET IT ALREADY... NO MATTER WHO THE OTHER PERSON IS,
I'LL PROTECT YOU!
Naoya-kun, in truth, even if that wasn't the case,
wouldn't you still be a gentleman?
.....
Hmm?
YOU DON'T THINK OF ME AS A MAN!
MARI-SAN, YOU LOOK DOWN ON ME.

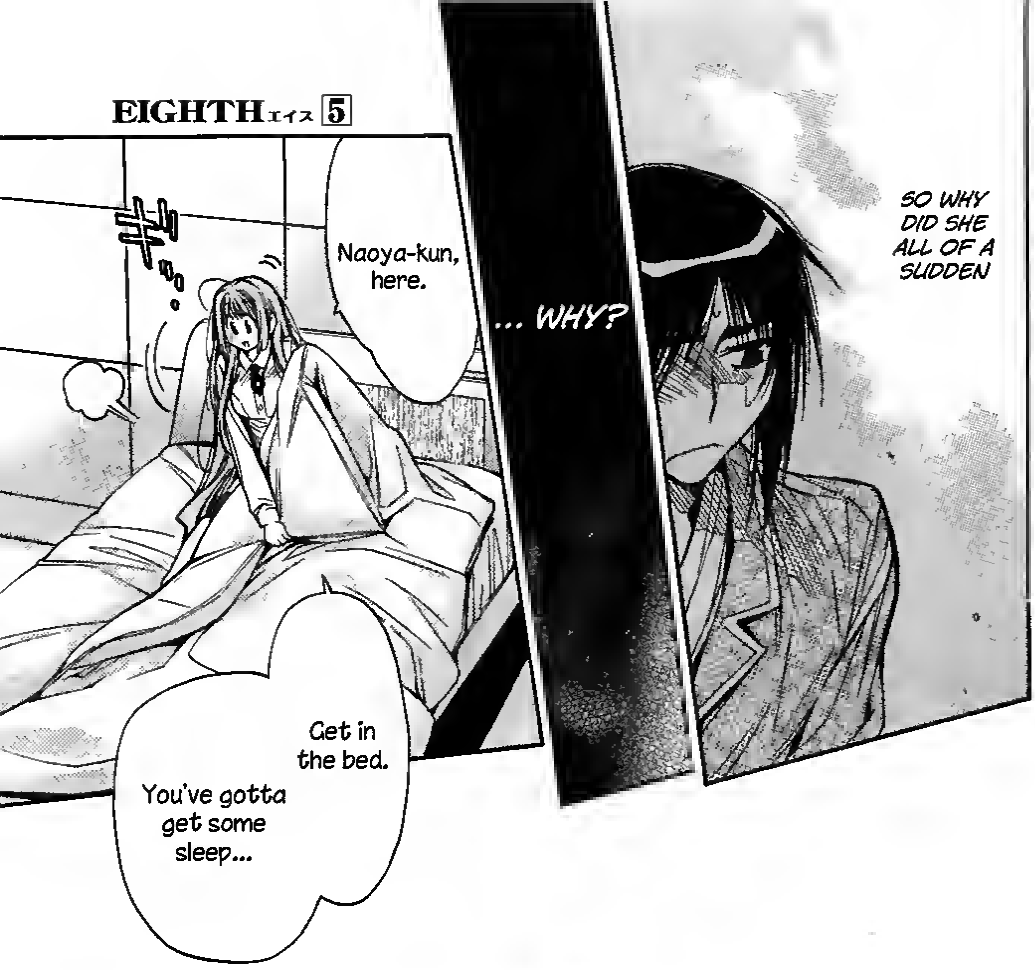
... Oh?
That's not so.
YOU'RE LYING.
How so?
And what about you?
The truth is you're not really interested in me, are you?
EEEEEEEEH?!!
ER, HOLD IT!
WHERE THE HELL DID THAT COME FROM?!
What you really love is
えぇぇぇ

SFX: Eeeeh

breasts!
AAAAARRGH
THAT'S JUST BENT.
I MEAN REALLY STRANGE.
But earlier that's all you were looking at.
!!
YES, THAT'S TRUE BUT...!!
Whoa
So much a like a guy
EVERYONE LOVES YOU, MARI-SAN.
THEY ALL SAY HOW KIND YOU ARE,
HOW FUNNY, HOW CUTE... I THINK SO TOO.
WHAT I MEAN IS, IF IT'S MARI'S CHEST, THAT MAKES IT OKAY, RIGHT?
Uh no um
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

OKAY, LOOK AT IT THE OTHER WAY, MARI-SAN. IF YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE GUYS,
THEN HOW CAN YOU JUST SLEEP TOGETHER WITH ONE LIKE THAT?!
SFX: NOOOOOOOO
... Oh my...
I never really thought about it like that.
Ohhh
MARI-SAN?!
Oh, but
I like everyone.
Like helping aliens to not be afraid, stuff like that
If someone was troubled, I might be able to help, right?
STOP.
PLEASE, DON'T TALK ABOUT WASTING THEM LIKE THAT, I BEG YOU.
I can't believe she'd waste her tits like that
SFX: UWAAAA

I don't.
MAYBE... YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER FEVER?!
... YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD, MARI-SAN.
You touched me earlier, right?
I wasn't hot, was I?
... SHE'S ACTING WEIRD.
LOOKS LIKE MARI-SAN ISN'T GOING TO KEEP HER PROMISE OF SLEEPING TOGETHER.
SHE'S THAT KIND OF WOMAN


Naoya-kun, here.
... WHY?
SO WHY DID SHE ALL OF A SUDDEN
Get in the bed.
You've gotta get some sleep...

.... NO.

Naoya-kun.
NO.
MARI-SAN, THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT YOU,
AND THIS MARI-SAN...
I HATE HER.

SFX: GASP

SFX: MBPH

SFX: POKE POKE POKE POKE

You're so cute—
tee hee hee

WHINE: AWW, C'MONNN

Well darn...
I want to praise you.
HUH?
If you hadn't saved the day he would have caught her.
Well then... Oh,
that's right. How is Luca?
WELL... I GUESS SO,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I DID IT ALL BY MYSELF...

But you were wonderful.
I was surprised.
... When you set in your mind to do one thing, you become like an adult.
Something I want to see.
I always want to praise you...
EH, NO NEED TO HOLD BACK.
PRAISE ME MORE
ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE TO RECEIVE A LIFETIME OF PRAISE FROM MARI-SAN.....
TEEHEE
SFX: EHEH EHE

That would be nice...
For Naoya-kun to be a good kid
and truly protect me...
.... AH

THIS PERSON IS HIDING SOMETHING.

SHE'S A PERSON WHO NEVER SHOWS HER TRUE SELF.
NO,
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT.
YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE.
WHEN ON ESCORT DUTY, ONE MUSTN'T LOSE SIGHT OF THE TARGET.
Hmm
I suppose so.
AND THERE'S ONE OTHER THING.

TO PROTECT YOU
I HAVE TO KEEP YOU BY MY SIDE.
I CAN'T BE APART FROM YOU, MARI-SAN.

IF YOU TELL ME TO GUARD YOU,
YOU CAN'T TELL ME TO LET GO OF YOU.
... Oh my.
That's a toughie...!
annoyed...
EH?!
Oh
Young kids are such physical beings...
Naoya-kun, would it be okay to just hold my hand?
AM I A NURSE MAID?!

....
Heehee
Understood.
I'll do my
best.

...STILL, SOMEHOW...
I'M IN THE INFIRMARY, BUT I JUST CAN'T FALL ASLEEP...
de
Huh ?!
ZzzZzz
Nnnnn ...
I SLIPPED IN NEXT TO HER WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.
.... WELL,
REALLY ... GEEZ.
I'M BEGGING YOU, MARI-SAN.
YUP, HEY.
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.
faint
.....

IF MARI-SAN'S OKAY THEN... OKAY.
... IT'LL BE FINE.
IT'S FINE IF I CAN WATCH OVER HER.
Mmm.
I'M HERE.
grip
IT'S ALL FINE.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
YEAH.

... IT'S FINE, MARI-SAN.
HMM
THIS IS THE SAME AS LUCA...!!
This sucks
.....
No response
Zzz Zzz

NO WAY, NO WAY.
THIS AIN'T HAPPENING ...
.....
Naoya-kun...
HUH?
Hey...
Why aren't you asleep...?
EH?
IF YOU ASK WHY... WELL,

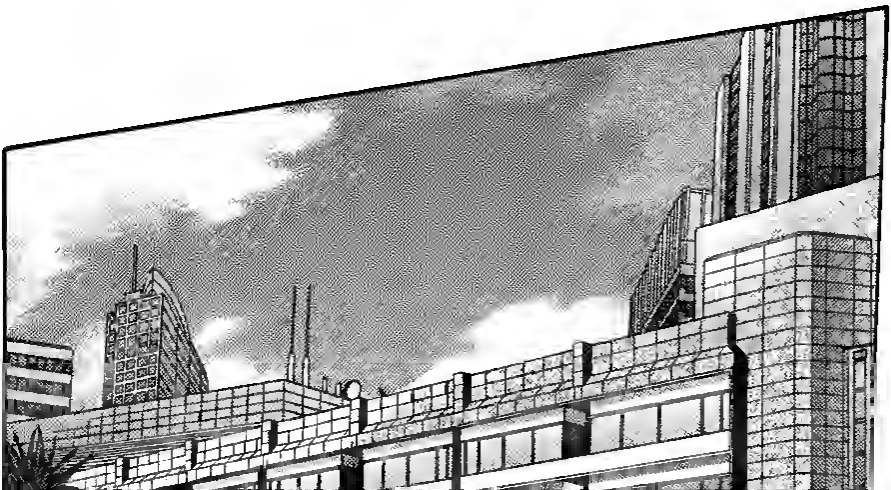
It's because I'm guarding you...
You can't stay up all night... If you do...
UWAAH ?!
SFX: REVEAL
WHOA, MARI-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
... If you do that, you'll yet again be dead asleep come morning, right...?

That if I don't wake you up, you won't wake up...
YOU'RE REALLY ACTING WEIRD, MARI-SAN!!
NO, ER, HOLD- ... ER
But...
You're a really good kid, aren't you...?
SFX: GLOMP
Your Mari-san will wake you up...♡
!
Whoo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo

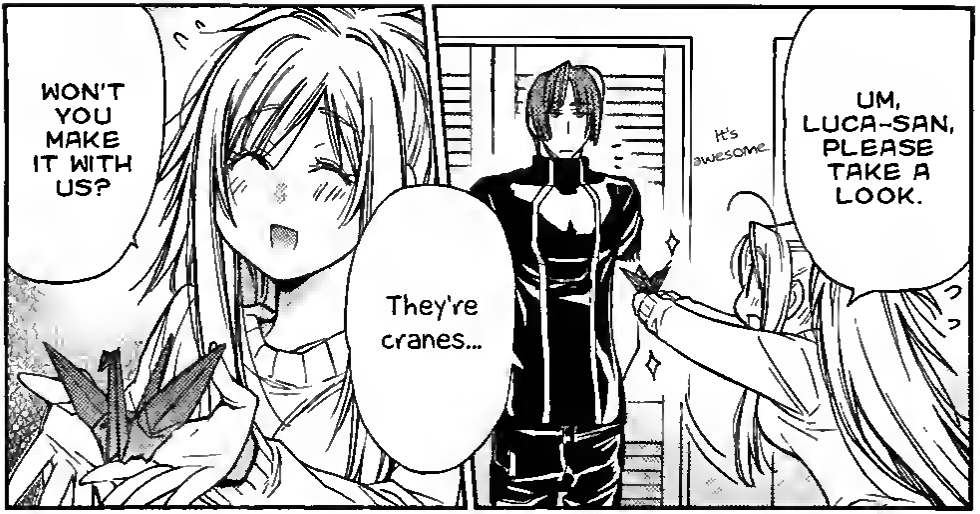
ゼカ…
WHA-?!
チュン
チュン
……
… UNH
MM
MORN-
ING…
チュン
SFX: CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
… YEAH,
OH YEAH.
IT'S
MORN-
ING…
MARI-SAN…

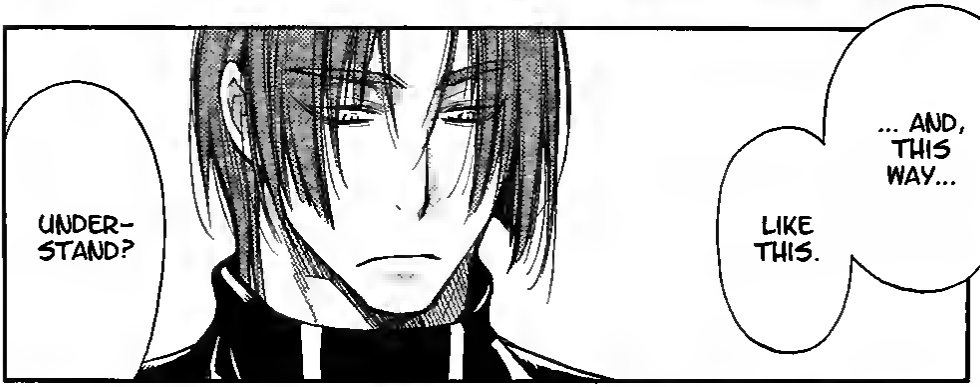
MARI-SAN...
... I'M SURE I WAS HOLDING MARI-SAN'S HAND...
おそおそおそ
NO, WRONG, THERE WERE TITS...
HUH? DID I JUST DREAM IT...?
3
SFX: TREMBLING IN EXCITEMENT
SFX: TWEET TWEET TWEET...
WHAT THE-?!
NO, WRONG! I CAN'T BE HERE! I GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK!!
あわわわ
あわあわ
SHE DIDN'T SLEEP AT ALL!! AND LEFT THE ROOM!!
WHOA ....
MARI-SAN?!
SFX: GASP

WHO AM I EVEN TALKING TO?!
WHAT TIME IS IT?
FOR ME TO FALL ASLEEP,
I'M THE WORST.
SFX: BAMF
SHE JUST LEFT TO GET TO WORK, RIGHT?
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHEN DID YOU GO?
MARI-SAN.
MARI-SAN...



RIGHT, FOLD THERE.
LIKE THIS?
YUP.
AND, YOU'RE DONE.
おおおお
YOU'RE GOOD.
YOU PICKED IT RIGHT UP.
REAL-LY?
SFX: WHOAAAA
I'm on duty.
YOU STILL DOING THAT?
YOU WANNA TRY IT TOO...?
じー
SFX: STARE...


UM, LUCA-SAN, PLEASE TAKE A LOOK.
It's awesome.
They're cranes...
WON'T YOU MAKE IT WITH US?


... AND, THIS WAY...
LIKE THIS.
UNDER-STAND?

もく
もく
もく
もく
.....
... HEY, DON'T DO ORIGAMI LIKE IT'S JUST MORE WORK.
Like a side job at home.
Hm?

LUCA-SAN!
With one person gone I feel so relieved.
... This is a madhouse, with too many people going in and out.
ALL THAT ASIDE...
I WONDER WHY NAOYA HASN'T COME BACK TO THE ROOM...
We even left it unlocked
It's like he doesn't wanna keep Celcia hidden...
HUH?
おおおお

WH... WHAT'S WRONG, NAOYA?
なぁ...
HIKARU,
SORRY, BUT DO YOU KNOW WHERE MARI-SAN IS?!
MARI-SAN?
SFX: PHEW...
I DON'T KNOW, SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE TODAY.
AAAAH!
AWWW GEEEZ!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
RANT: WHERE ARE YOUUUU!? SMALL SFX: NOOO!
DID YOU CALL HER ON HER PHONE?
I DID, BUT...
SHE'S NOT ANSWER-ING.
EEH?!

LET'S TALK!
HEY, NAOYA!
SFX: BONK

NO WAY!
WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING CAN WAIT TILL LATER.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO HANG OUT WITH YOU SENPAIS!
HOLD IT, WHAT THE HELL...?
IS MARI-SAN...
RANT: JERK!
RANT: DAMN THEM

REALLY QUITTING EIGHTH RESEARCH?
WORD IS SHE'S TRANS-FERRING TO THE HOME OFFICE.
SFX: WHAAAAAA?!
HEY, YOU!
SFX: BOPPITY BOPPITY BOPPITY
IT PISSES ME OFF, BUT YOU AND MARI-SAN WERE CLOSE, RIGHT?
WHOA, WAKE UP.
AAAH...
IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, SPILL.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...?
GO AND STOP IT, EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU—

... RIGHT NOW

I KNOW WHERE MARI-SAN BELONGS.

RIGHT NOW

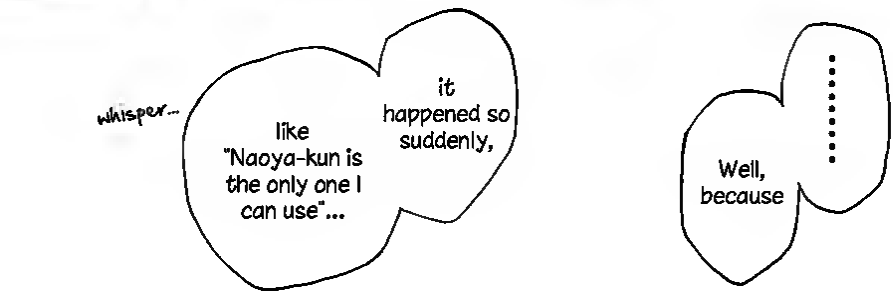
I'M COMING TO SAVE YOU.

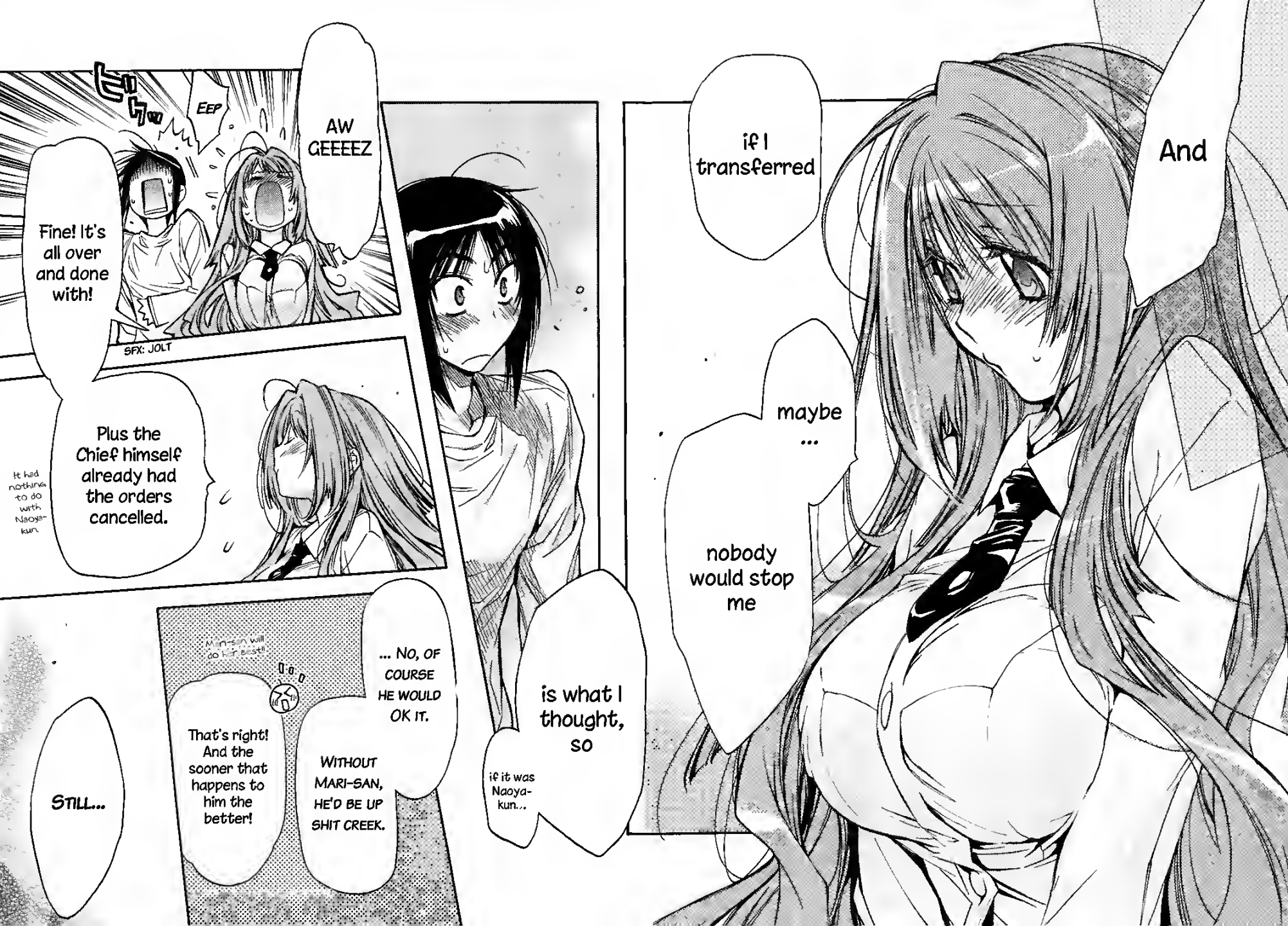
!
HEEEY!
I'M PROTECTING MARI-SAN!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

... What are you doing?
And even so, the Chief is currently still your superior, right? And you just go flying in like that...
BUT
I tried to wake you, but you just wouldn't wake up.
Ah...
... BUT YOU JUST DISAPPEARED LIKE THAT...
Oh my.
SFX: SOB SOB

THEY'RE SAYING THAT YOU'RE TRANSFERRING TO THE HOME OFFICE.
!
... Who'd you hear that from?
WHO CARES!
BUT I COULDN'T STAND IT.
... So you came to stop me? To the Chief's office?
THAT'S RIGHT.
When it comes to personnel changes, we have to follow company orders.
I KNOW, BUT...
BEFORE ALL THAT, YOU SAID "PROTECT ME".

YOU SAID...
... HUH?
MARI-SAN...
DID YOU REALLY WANT ME TO PROTECT YOU...?
... COULD IT BE THAT WAS YOU WANTING TO SAY "I DON'T WANT TO GO ANYWHERE BUT EIGHTH"?
What do you mean by "that"?
SLEEP-ING TO-GETHER!
SAYING LET'S GET CLOSE WAS JUST FOR THAT?!


Well, because
it happened so suddenly,
whisper...
like "Naoya-kun is the only one I can use"...


And
if I transferred
maybe ...
nobody would stop me
is what I thought, so
if it was Naoya-kun...
AW GEEEEZ
EEP
Fine! It's all over and done with!
SFX: JOLT
Plus the Chief himself already had the orders cancelled.
It had nothing to do with Naoya-kun
... NO, OF COURSE HE WOULD OK IT.
WITHOUT MARI-SAN, HE'D BE UP SHIT CREEK.
Mari-san will do it's best!!
That's right! And the sooner that happens to him the better!
STILL...

MARI-SAN, YOU'RE SUCH A SPOILED KID ♡
SFX: DASH
SFX: KYAAAA
WHOA
MARI-SAN, YOU'VE GOT FAST LEGS.

04
EIGHTH

TL: Castellan
Typesetter: TKS
Cleaner: Zack
PR/QC: Juubun

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AS-
TRAEA
COM-
PANY
SAN
FRANCISCO
KRATOS
COMPANY
...?
YES.
WE'RE
GETTING
REPORTS
ABOUT THE
"H5" CASE.

BECAUSE OF DIRE FINANCES, THEY STARTED A FIRE JUST SO THEY COULD PUT IT OUT...?
FIGURES. IDIOTS.
PAY IT NO MIND.
IS THAT OKAY?
WHERE IS IT WRITTEN THAT THE CHILD MUST TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR THE PARENT?

GOOD JOB ON THE VACCINE.
WITHOUT GIVING IT A TRY, WE DON'T KNOW WHO WOULD REACT AND HOW.
WITH SUCH A HIGH RISK, NOBODY TOOK THE BAIT.
AND THE ANNOYING "GUEST"?
SACRIFICES ARE INEVITABLE.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A *MUTANT*.
WE DON'T ALL HAVE THE SAME GENETIC CODE.
FROM NOW ON, IT'S THE "MADE-TO-ORDER" AGE.

THE FATHER IS OLD.
... AND IN OTHER REPORTS
LEON COMPANY IN ITALY HAS GONE INTO LIQUIDATION.
EH
IT WENT BANKRUPT?!
TO PUT IT PLAINLY.
IF CELCIA IS THERE, SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE RECEIVED INVESTMENT FUNDING?
WHOA, HEY.
WHAT ABOUT "CELCIA"?
THAT'S BECAUSE
SHE'S NOT THERE.
THERE ARE REPORTS OF HER DEMISE — BUT THEY'RE FALSE.

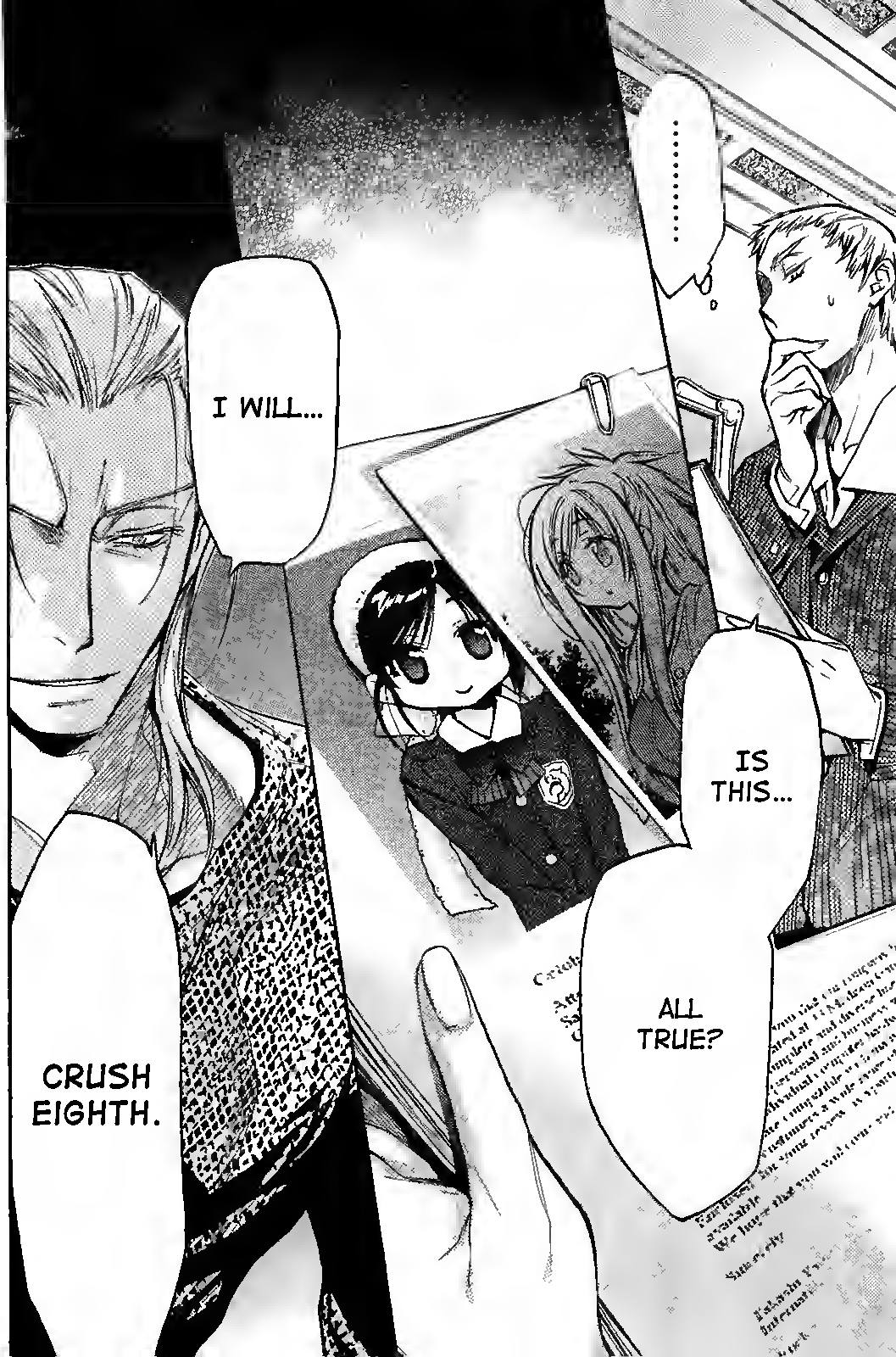
WHY?
PEOPLE FROM THE VATICAN ARE ON THE MOVE.
WORD IS THEY WANT TO PUT HER IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY?!
Whaaa?!
YES.

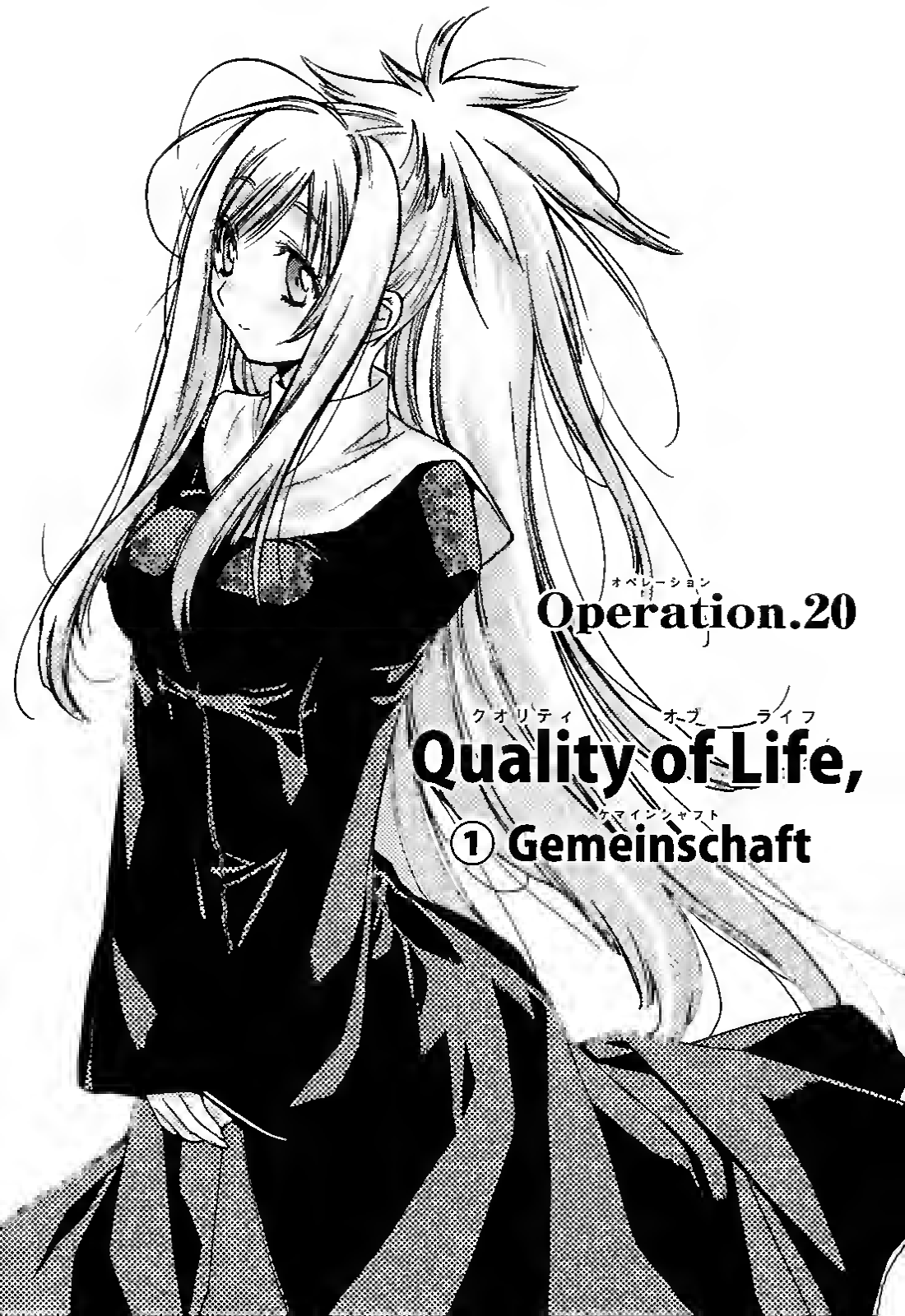
HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS?
LIES!
THE VATICAN ALSO HAS "FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES". THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY UP TO SOMETHING.

THEY'LL "DECLARE HER A SAINT" AND TREAT HER AS A HOLY WOMAN, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST SUPPOSITION, BUT
THEY MAY INTEND TO TURN HER INTO A CATHOLIC "ADVERTISING BILLBOARD".

AS FOR "CELCIA", SHE'D BE BETTER OFF ACCEPTING THE FACT THAT SHE SHOULD BE SERVING THIS INDUSTRY.
CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER, CURED WITH A PRAYER!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY! HURRY UP AND FIND HER!!
YES, SIR.
WHO CARES ABOUT LEON.
WHAT'S UP WITH EIGHTH?
HEY.
JUST WHEN THE TECHNOLOGY HAD COME OUT THAT WOULD SHUT THE CATHOLICS UP.
HMPH
JUST THAT ...
THEIR PERFORMANCE RECORD HASN'T ALTERED GREATLY.
NOTHING OF NOTE HAS CHANGED.

THEY SEEM TO BE ENGAGED IN TALKS WITH A JAPANESE UNIVERSITY.
JAPAN...? IPSC?
AREN'T THEY HIDING THEIR DEALING?
AS FOR THAT, THERE'S ALSO
ONE MORE PERSON YOU MUST FIND... BESIDES CELCIA.
YES, SIR.
LISTEN.
FIND THIS ONE BEFORE EIGHTH DOES.


.....
IS THIS...
ALL TRUE?
I WILL...
CRUSH EIGHTH.



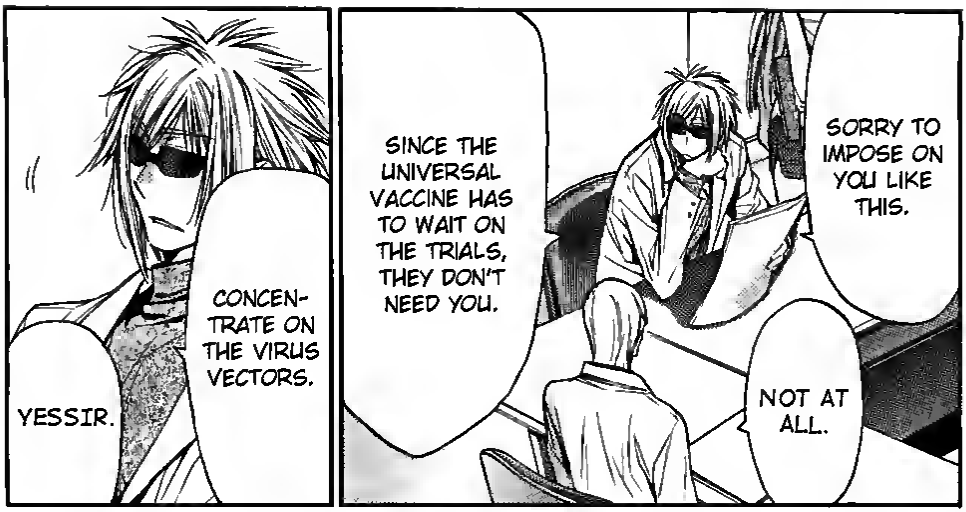
Operation.20 (オペレーション)

Quality of Life, (クオリティ オブ ライフ)

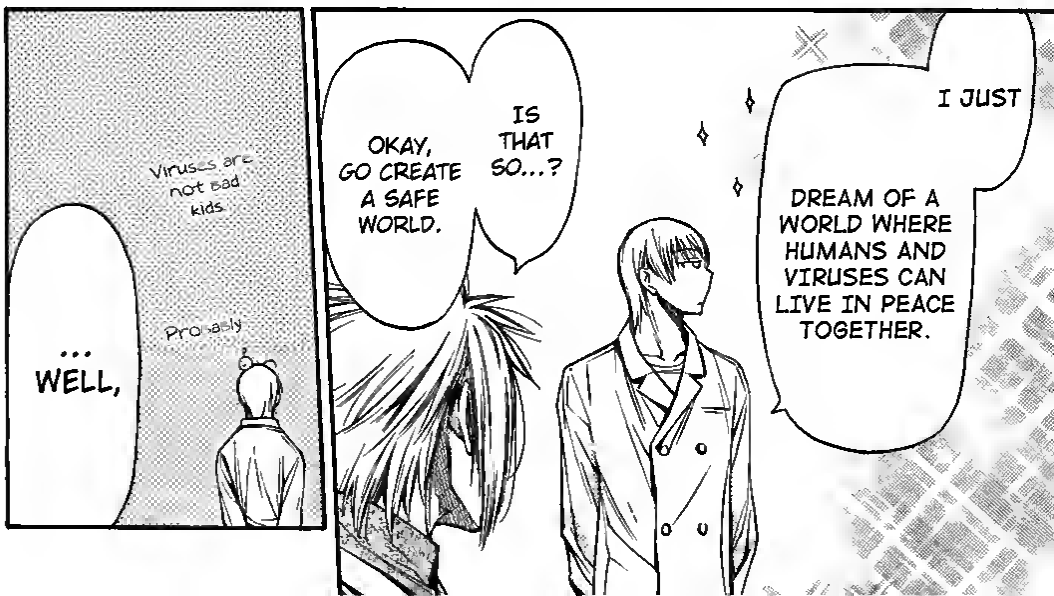
① Gemeinschaft (ゲマインシャフト)

EIGHTH RESEARCH
CONFERENCE ROOM
あ
AAAAAH
SFX: FWAAA...
KSHNK!
FINE, FINE.
EMAIL'S ALREADY GOING AROUND ABOUT THAT.
ABOUT 4TH'S NEW BUSINESS MATTERS.

USING THE "PROCESS OF STEM CELL DIFFERENTIATION OF HUMAN IPS CELLS" DEVELOPED AT EIGHTH...
WE WILL PREPARE LIVER CELLS AND TEST THE DRUG-METABOLIZING ENZYMATIC ACTIVITY.
IT'S ALL IN THERE.
FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WE'LL NEED TO TAKE CARE WITH THE DRUG DOSAGE FOR PATIENTS.
AFTER THAT THERE WILL BE OTHER RESEARCH METHODS.
NATURALLY WE MUST SIMULTANEOUSLY TEST THE TOXICITY AND EFFICACY OF IPSC-DERIVED LIVER CELLS.
WE'LL BE CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON GENETIC RISK FACTORS WITH UNIVERSITIES.
WE'LL HAVE TO COORDINATE WITH THEM.
... AND
ISAAC WILL LEAVE THE VACCINE TEAM.
YES, SIR.


YESSIR.
CONCEN-TRATE ON THE VIRUS VECTORS.
SINCE THE UNIVERSAL VACCINE HAS TO WAIT ON THE TRIALS, THEY DON'T NEED YOU.
SORRY TO IMPOSE ON YOU LIKE THIS.
NOT AT ALL.

I'LL LEAVE SUCH MATTERS TO THE CHIEF'S JUDGMENT.
... WELL,
Seriously
THE VECTORS ARE WHAT WILL BRING IN THE BUCKS SO GO KICK SOME ASS.


... WELL,
Viruses are not bad kids
Probably
OKAY, GO CREATE A SAFE WORLD.
IS THAT SO...?
I JUST DREAM OF A WORLD WHERE HUMANS AND VIRUSES CAN LIVE IN PEACE TOGETHER.

*Virus Vectors_ In the cells to be restructured, it's how the virus carries the target genes.

IN SHORT, THIS PROJECT IS ABOUT "TESTING THE USE OF IPSCS TO TREAT PATIENTS SOONER".
REGARD-LESS, IT'S NOT JUST THESE TESTS.
WE WILL MOVE ON TO USING GENE THERAPY TO REWRITE GENES AND REGENERATE ORGANS.
THE COMPETITION IN THIS FIELD IS FIERCE, ESPECIALLY WITH GENETIC ENGINEERING.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT WE HOPE FOR
BECAUSE THE MARKET WILL DEFINITELY GROW.
THE COMPETITION IS FIERCE, AND THE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT WILL MOVE FORWARD, FASTER AND FASTER, ESPECIALLY WITH IPSCS.
IF YOU GET CAUGHT NAPPING...
YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED.

BUT THAT'S ENOUGH ABOUT THAT.
WHAT WE CAN'T DO TODAY MAY BE POSSIBLE TOMORROW.
KEEP AT IT.
WE'LL GET THERE.
NEXT, I WANT TO GET US SOME HELP.
IF YOU KNOW ANY CAPABLE RESEARCHERS, INTRODUCE THEM TO US.

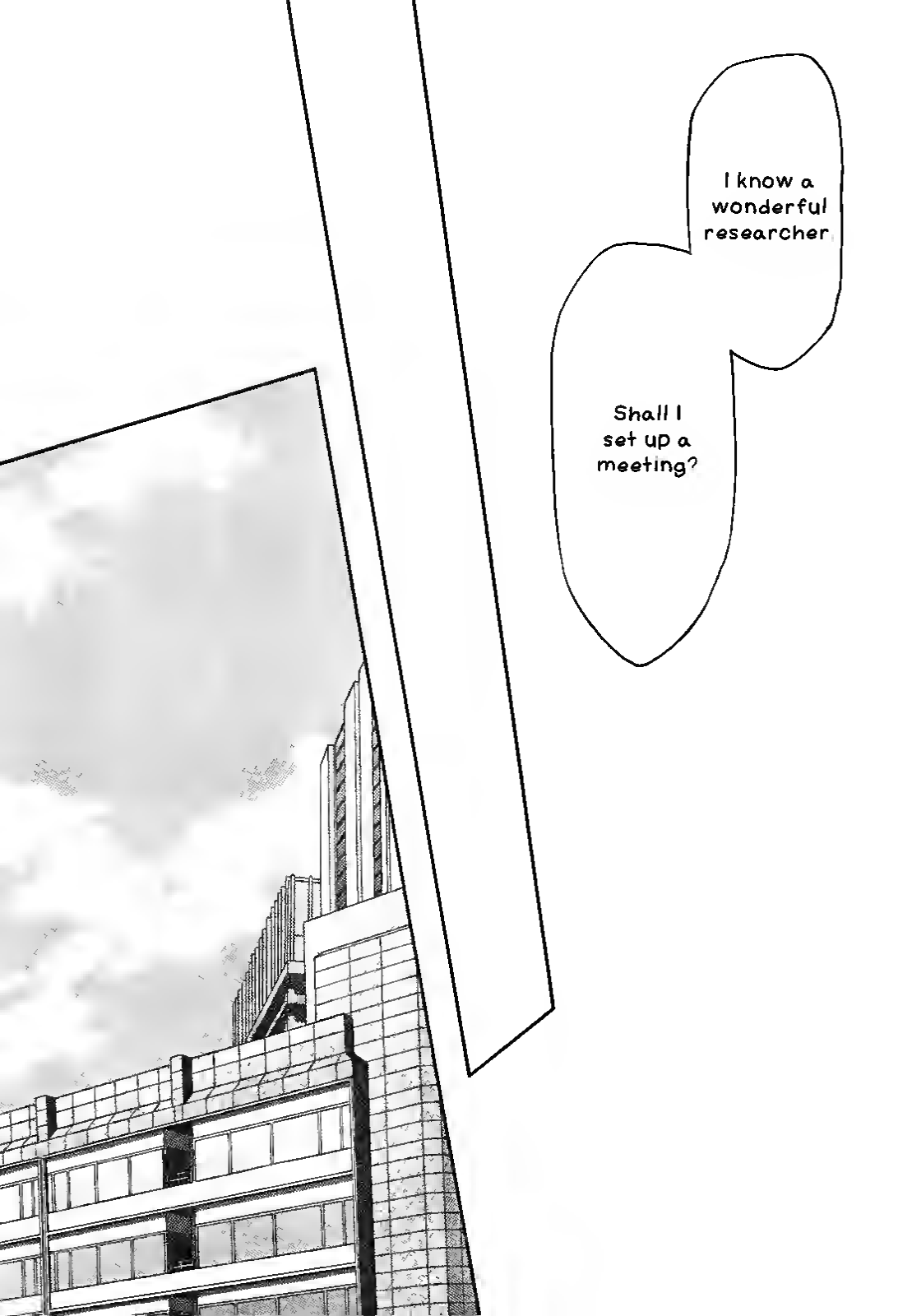
EH
WE'RE GETTING ANOTHER STAFF MEMBER?
RIGHT.
GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT?
NO, IT'S JUST THE FIRST I'VE HEARD—
IT'S FINE, OKAY?
WITH IPSC, WE HAVE TO GET IN GOOD WITH INVESTORS.
YEAH, TRUE...
LIKE WITH YOU.

SH-
SHE'S A FINE GIRL.
I KNOW THAT.
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU TRIED TO DRAG HER OFF TO HQ?
ゴクッ
YOU'VE BEEN JERKING OFF TO MARI-CHAN, HAVEN'T YA?
SFX: GULP
NO, UM
DAMN, I WAS RIGHT.

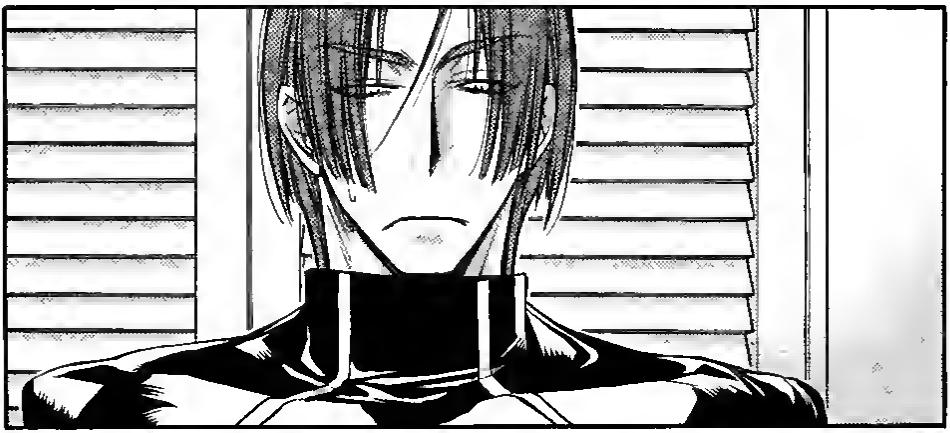
HEY.
THAT WASN'T WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO!
WHA-
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A BRIDE, DO IT SOMEWHERE ELSE.
カァ
SFX: BLUSH

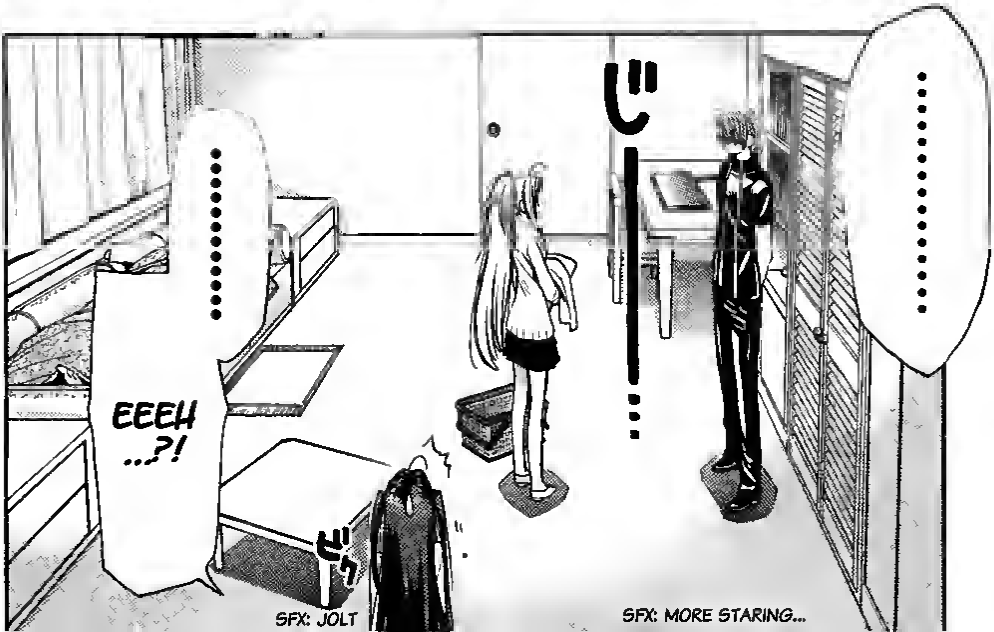
PEOPLE FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS DON'T MAKE DECISIONS OVER EIGHTH PERSONNEL.
NOT HQ.
IT'S FOR THE CHIEF OF EIGHTH RESEARCH.
SO WHY, RYUUICHI?
... IT'S BECAUSE
THE BIO INDUSTRY REQUIRES PEOPLE WHO ARE QUICK AND SPECIALIZED.
THAT'S RIGHT! AND IF OUR PEOPLE GET DRAGGED OFF BY HQ ONE BY ONE, IT'S A ROYAL PAIN.
GET THIS,
QUIT MESSING AROUND WITH EIGHTH.

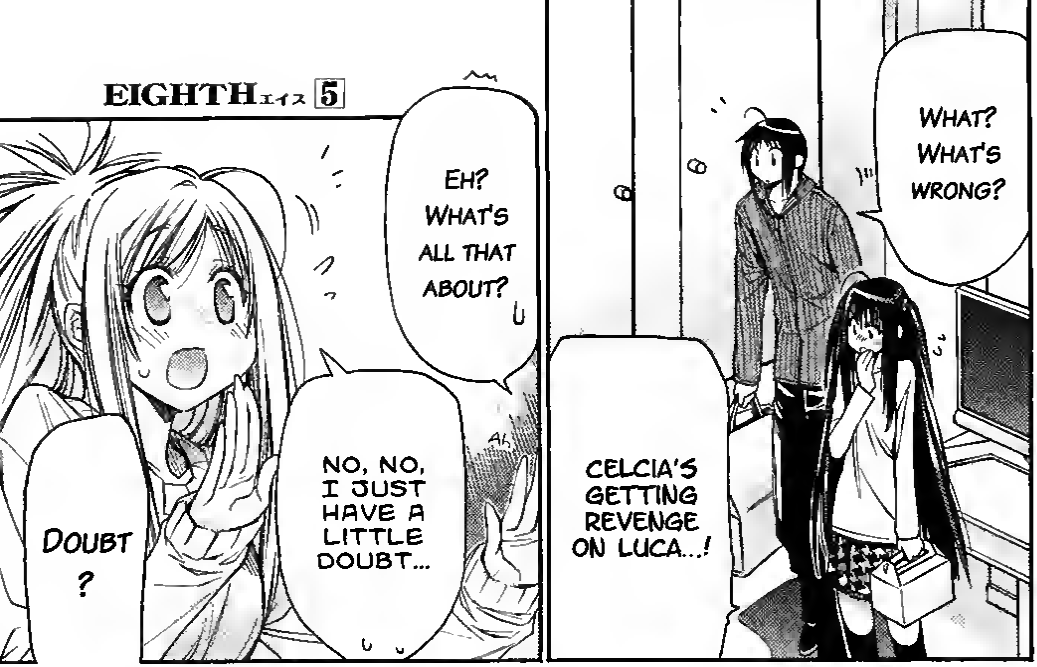
... Understood.
I'm sorry.
More than anything else, if you did something to Mari,
はーぁ
Yeah ...?
You'd cause a riot at eighth.
Eh
SFX: SIGHHH
Mari is what keeps them from—
Hey, Shinya!
Dr. Shinjou.
Thanks again for all your hard work.
Hey there
Yo, good work, you guys
Got a minute?
Of course.
There's this one Japanese person

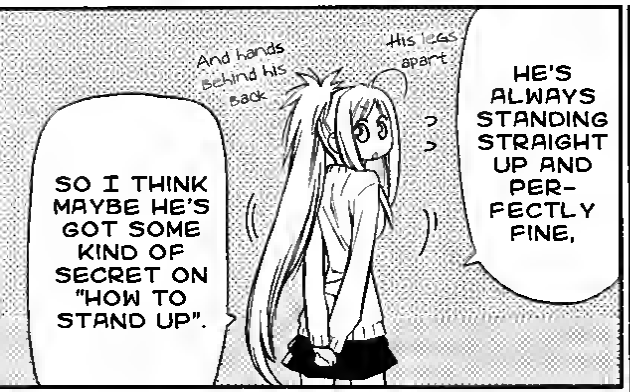

I know a wonderful researcher.
Shall I set up a meeting?

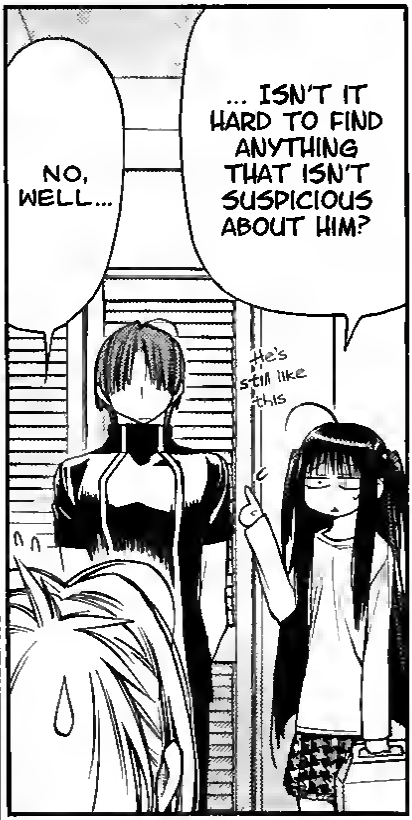
SFX: STARE...






WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
CELCIA'S GETTING REVENGE ON LUCA...!
EH? WHAT'S ALL THAT ABOUT?
NO, NO, I JUST HAVE A LITTLE DOUBT...
DOUBT ?


HE'S ALWAYS STANDING STRAIGHT UP AND PER-FECTLY FINE,
His legs apart
And hands behind his back
SO I THINK MAYBE HE'S GOT SOME KIND OF SECRET ON "HOW TO STAND UP".


... ISN'T IT HARD TO FIND ANYTHING THAT ISN'T SUSPICIOUS ABOUT HIM?
NO, WELL...
He's still like this

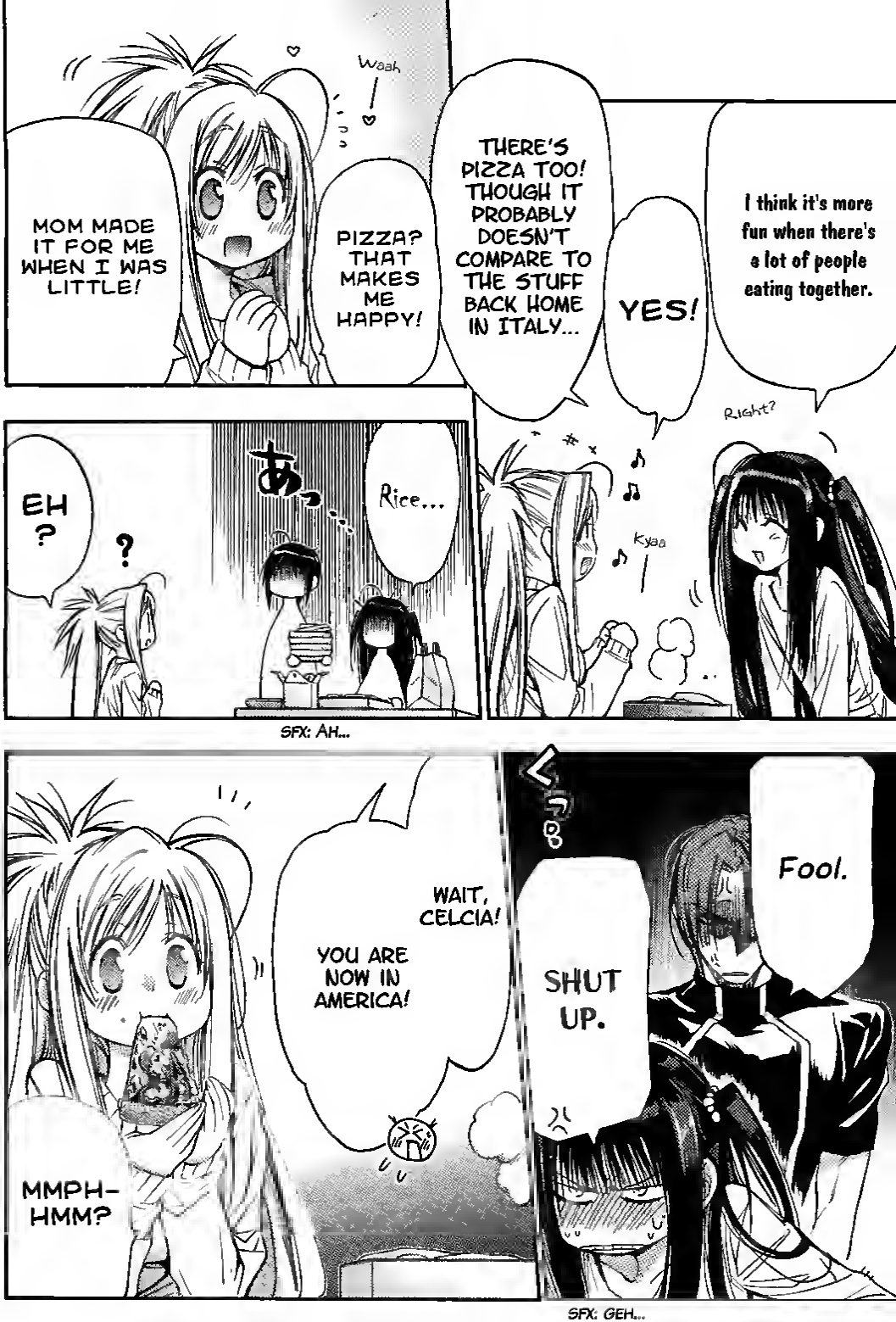
BECAUSE HE'S LIKE THIS, RIGHT?!
Totally straight!
WHERE ARE YOUR EYES, CELCIA...?

Hmm
LIKE WHEN THEY DO A BATTLE YELL?
THERE'S THAT TOO, BUT MORE THAT WHEN YOU STAND STRAIGHT, THERE'S VERY LITTLE STRESS.
OH REAL-LY?
STANDING LIMPLY WILL WEAR YOU OUT.
It's called standing guard
It's a pain when you're sleepy though.

THANK GOOO-NESS.
WELL, IF IT DOESN'T PUSH YOU TOO FAR, IT'S FINE WITH ME.
OH, NOW I GET IT.

I say it over and over, but...
.....

you have nothing to concern yourself with about me.
Nothing.
SO
PT
IN THAT CASE, QUIT IT WITH ALL THE STARING.
SFX: IGNORE
HEY!
C'MON, NOW.
FOR NOW LET'S EAT SOME FOOD!
SFX: WHACK
NAOYA, GET THE PLATES AND FORKS.
SURE.
OH, I SEE.
YOU BROUGHT A LOT OF STUFF FROM THE DINING HALL.
WOOOW.


Waah
MOM MADE IT FOR ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE!
PIZZA? THAT MAKES ME HAPPY!
THERE'S PIZZA TOO! THOUGH IT PROBABLY DOESN'T COMPARE TO THE STUFF BACK HOME IN ITALY...
YES!
I think it's more fun when there's a lot of people eating together.
Right?
Kyaa
EH ?
あっ...
Rice...
SFX: AH...
WAIT, CELCIA!
YOU ARE NOW IN AMERICA!
MMPH-HMM?
Fool.
SHUT UP.
SFX: GEH...

I WONDER WHAT YOU'LL THINK OF THE HOT DOG!!
HOT DOG?
ドン
HAVE YOU EVER HAD ONE?
NEVER.
Smells Good
スゴー
OKAY, TRY IT.
O-
OKAY.
SFX: AAAH
SFX: SQUIRT

SFX: YOU'RE AWFUL!
ISN'T IT STRANGE HOW YOU THINK EVERYTHING IS INDECENT?!
YOU'RE SUCH A SOUR-PUSS.
WHAT?!
UM
SO JUST WHAT IS A SOURPUSS, ANYWAY?
Hot dog
I SUPPOSE IT'S A PERSON WHO IMAGINES EVERYTHING IS PERVERTED.
Let's call it a sulky pervert
DON'T FEED HER SUCH AN INDECENT THING!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
YOU'RE THE IDIOT!!!!!

もこ
もこ
もこ
SFX: MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
!?
munch munch munch munch
HEY, FEED HER LIKE THAT!
WHEN DR. ANGELA EATS, YOU HAVE TO FEED HER.
CHOMP
EH... LUCA-SAN, WHY DID YOU...?
NO... I JUST...
SFX: BURP
...MMM...
DELISH... FINALLY I'M AWAKE.
SFX: WIPE WIPE
DOCTOR, WILL YOU EAT WITH US? THAT'D BE NICE.
IS THERE MORE?
のそ
のそ
YES.
SFX: SLUGGISH CRAWLING

HM?
HEY, NAOYA.
THIS IS REALLY FUN!
After that, gimme that, and that
GIMME ANOTHER OF THAT ONE JUST NOW.
AL-RIGHTY.
IS IT?
YUP.
IT'S FUN WHEN IT'S SO LIVELY! IT'S JUST LIKE AT HOME!
I SEE.
THEN SHALL WE DO THIS FROM NOW ON?
YES!

YOU GONNA EAT TOO?
Or am I wasting my time?
I don't want any.
I don't eat while on guard duty—
If Celcia's eating, that's fine.
... HEY.

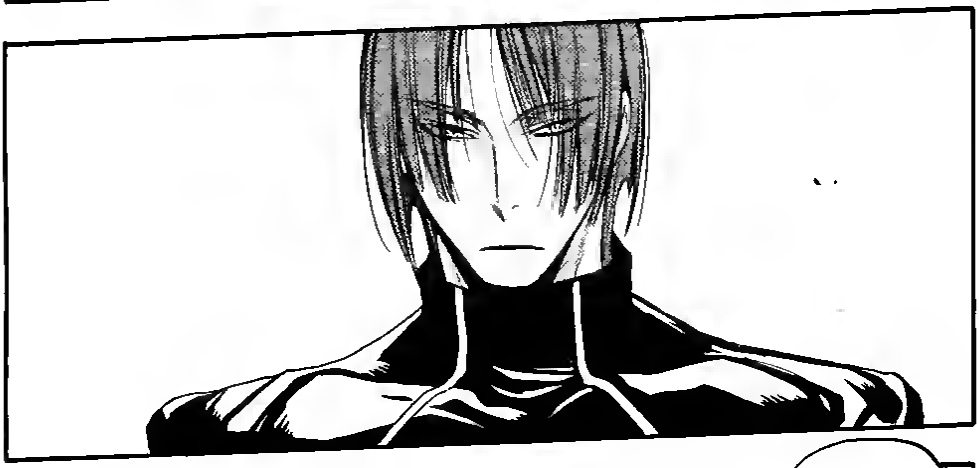
ゴォ
LUCA, ARE YOU...
SFX: WHOOSH
ゴォォォ
おー
オォ
HERE TO TAKE CELCIA TO THE VATICAN?
SFX: WHOOOOOSH
TRUE, I DON'T KNOW IF WE'D GO ALL THE WAY TO THE VATICAN.
IS IT SAFE TO ALLOW HER TO STAY AT EIGHTH?
……

Sharp eyes you've got there
.....
With me, it comes to 9 people.
ビーン
aside from Celcia, 8 people have gone in and out of the room.
... At the very least, since I've been here

You're the one who asked if this place was safe.
ASIDE FROM YOU, THEY'RE ALL PEOPLE WITHIN EIGHTH.

I GET IT. SORRY I ASKED.
HEY,
This place is that secure.
As someone from the outside, I can safely say that the heart of the Vatican is impenetrable.
フン
SFX: HMPH

... Isn't your task to "find Celcia and bring her back"?
I'm asking if you are going to finish the job.

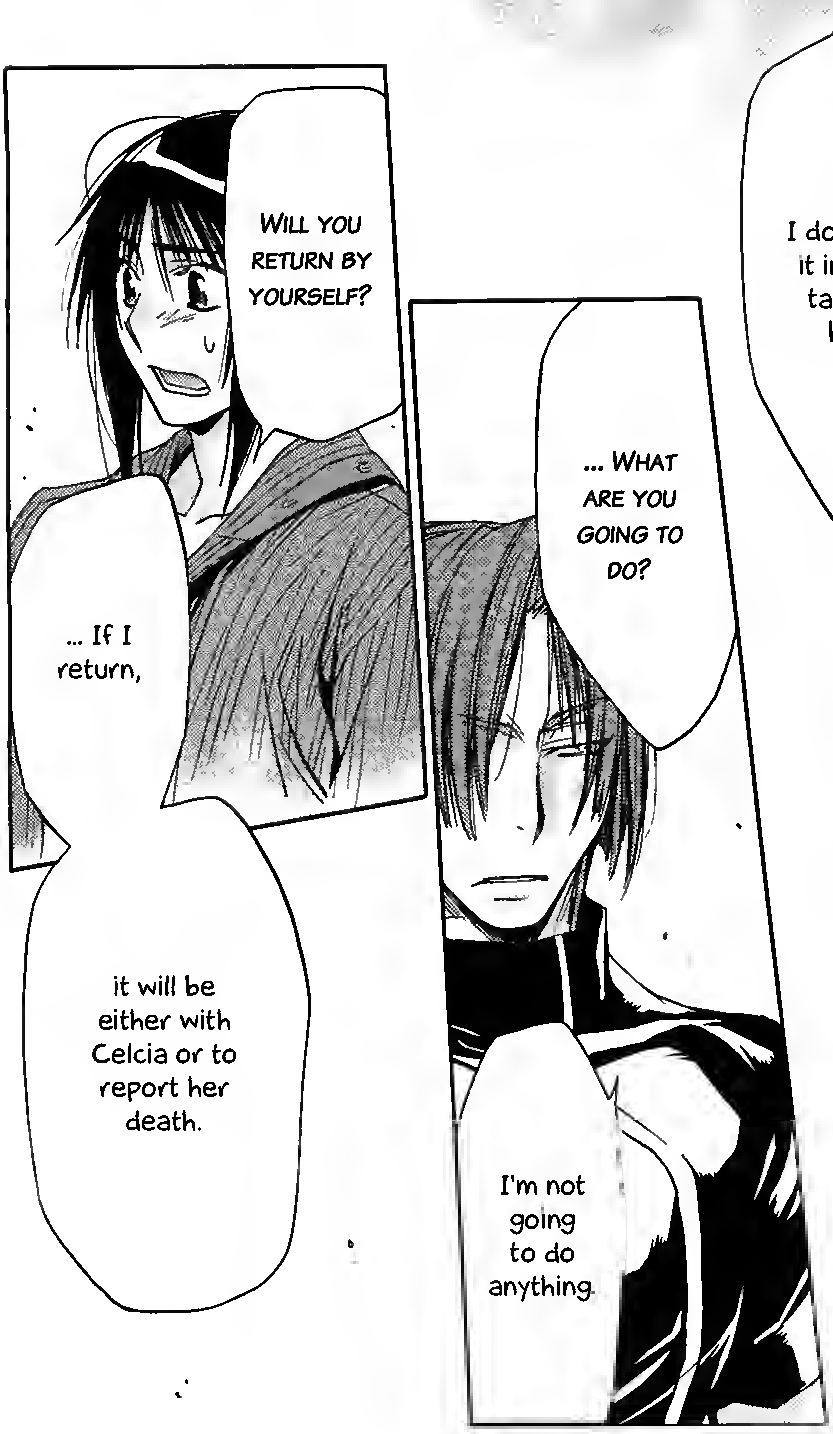


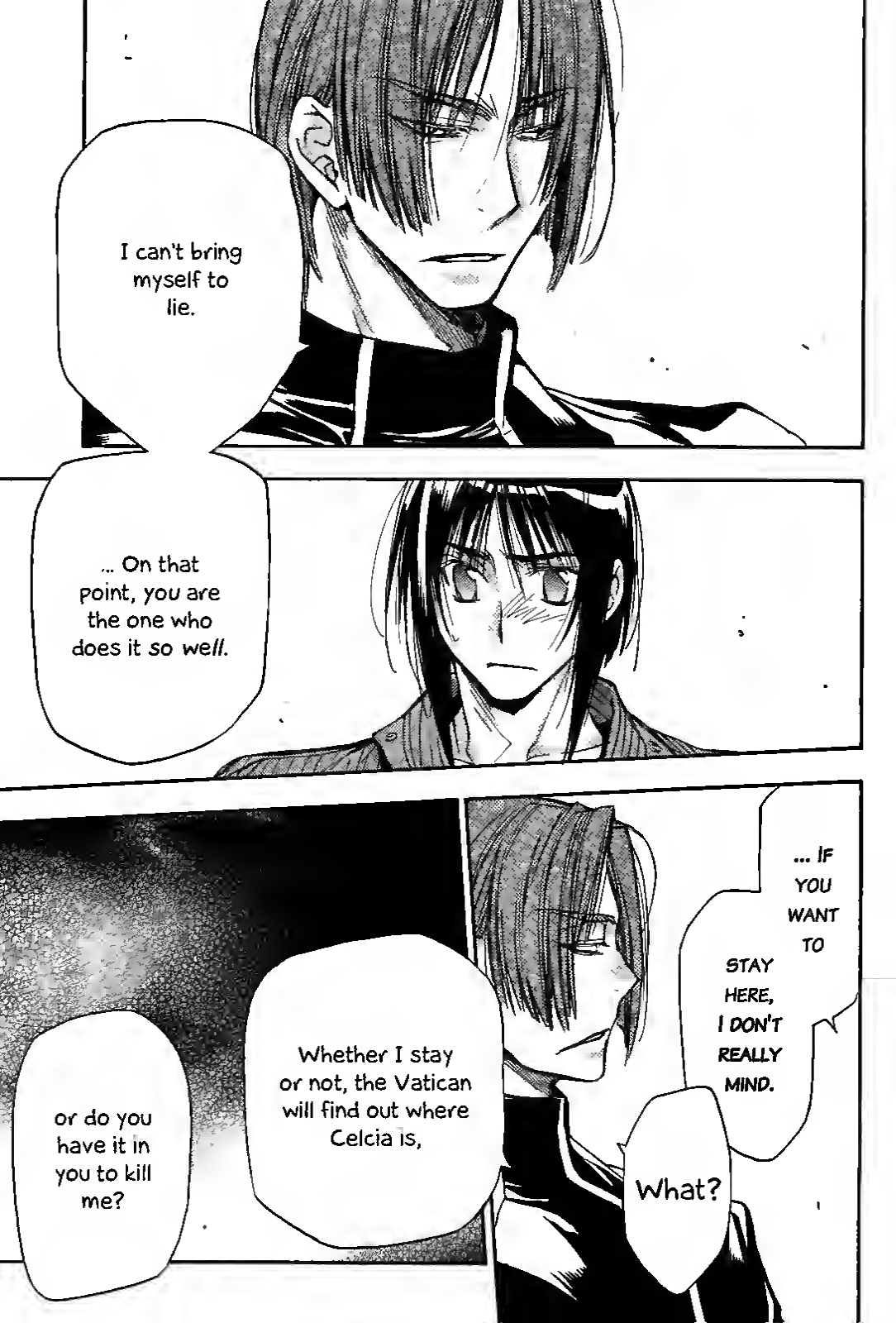
... It's none of your concern.
Not a chance.
I don't wanna hear it. This involves more than Celcia.

YOU'RE AS WORRIED AS I AM.
YOU'VE GONE SO FAR AS TO BE APPREHENDED BY THE FBI AS A TERROR SUSPECT,
YET YOUR DUTY CONTINUED.
... Is this conversation out of your comfort zone?
How many times
DAMN Y-...

do I have to say it?
As long as Celcia is unharmed, I'm fine with it.
Not knowing how far the lies went,
I took it upon myself to come and confirm it personally...
She was indeed safe, and also

you said "she's happy".
I don't want to do anything more than ... see that she is safe.

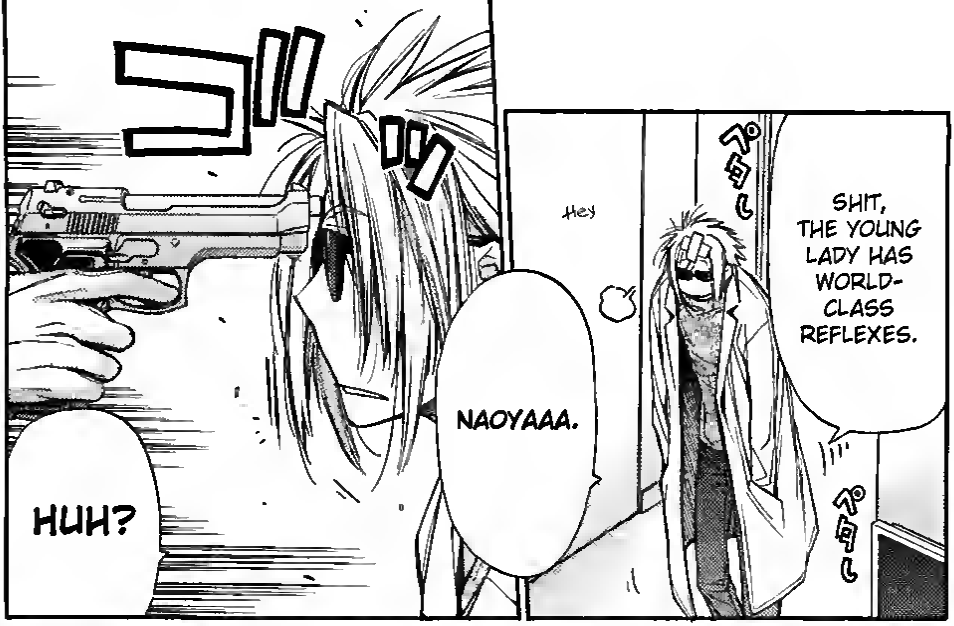

I don't have it in me to take her back.
... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'm not going to do anything.
WILL YOU RETURN BY YOURSELF?
... If I return,
it will be either with Celcia or to report her death.


I can't bring myself to lie.
... On that point, you are the one who does it so well.
... IF YOU WANT TO STAY HERE, I DON'T REALLY MIND.
What?
Whether I stay or not, the Vatican will find out where Celcia is,
or do you have it in you to kill me?

REALLY DO LOVE CELCIA...

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO KEEP SILENT ABOUT THAT...?

HEEEY.
IS NAOYA HERE?
SFX: BONK
KYAAA
IS THIS EVEN THE RIGHT ROOM?
!



SFX: CLINK

HOLD IT, WHAT'S THIS GUARD DUDE DOING?
They really just come and GO as they please...!!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T "GUEST" #10...
Congratulations
EH?
YOU FREE RIGHT NOW? YOU ARE, RIGHT?
AH... ERM...
NO, WELL... HOW CAN I PUT IT...?

SFX: POKE

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE.
Where's Mani-san?!
HOW ABOUT YOU TAG ALONG WITH ME?
ER... WHERE?
JAPAN.

WITH ME. THIS VERY INSTANT.

SFX: EEEEEH
なー
えぇぇぇぇ
NO, NO, NO.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
ARE YOU STUPID? YOU WOULD REMOVE THE GUARD WITH CELCIA HERE?!
What would happen here?!
YOU'LL BE HERE, WON'T YOU, OLD BOY?
えぇ!?
SFX: EEEH?!

IF I DON'T TAKE HER WITH ME, WHERE WILL SHE BE SAFE...?
SPEAKING OF WHICH,
HAVE YOU TRIED SOMETHING BESIDES PESTICIDE ON HER HIGHNESS HIKARU?

HOW CAN I PUT IT...
SORRY, BUT ANYTHING YOU DO
!
IS FINE WITH ME.

IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, CAN IT WAIT TILL WE GET BACK?
HEY, CUT IT OUT.
LUCA'S GONNA DIE OF HYPER-TENSION.
ガタガタガタガタ
NAOYA, GET READY.

SFX: SHAKING, ABOUT TO COLLAPSE

JAPAN
KANSAI INTER-NATIONAL AIRPORT
サッ
サッ
サッ
.....
... HEY, NAOYA WHAT'RE YOU SO PISSED ABOUT?
NAOYAA
NAAOOO-YAAA
.... ER

SFX: ZZZZZ
SHUT UP! QUIT JERKING ME AROUND!
WHADDAYA MEAN, DRAGGING ME OFF SOMEWHERE OUT OF THE BLUE!?
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT!
I ASK YOU WHAT FOR AND YOU JUST FALL ASLEEP!
My bad, my bad
THAT'S 'CAUSE I HADN'T GOTTEN ANY SLEEP.
SFX: YAP YAP YAP
AND I'D FINALLY GOTTEN TO TALK TO LUCA.
YOU COULD'VE BROUGHT ALONG SOME OTHER GUARD.
AND WASN'T THE ONE WHO GAVE ME TIME OFF FOR INJURY YOU, THE CHIEF?
YEAH, WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT,
BUT I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE A YOUNG'UN COME ALONG WITH ME.

WHAAAA?!
Oh.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO SAID IT.
WE CAME TO MEET SOMEONE.
IT WAS DR. SHINJOU'S RECOMMENDATION.
IT'S A RESEARCHER.
SIGH...
SEEMS IT'S AN INCREDIBLY GREAT SENSEI.
GREAT SENSEI?
SFX: FLIP
YOU NEED TO GET THIS PERSON TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN EIGHTH.
.....
UNDER-STAND?
!?
I... DON'T... UNDER-STAND...?

OF COURSE YOU UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE A KID AREN'T YOU?
さらり
!?
WHA?!
I JUST DON'T GET IT AT ALL!!
I'm not understanding the least bit of what you're saying!
Aaaaah Luca wasn't concerned about me at aaaall!
OH.
SHE'S BEHIND YOU.
ズド
.....

HUH?
LOOK DOWN.
DOWN,
ER...
トントン…

Ho
YOU'RE "RIO-SENSEI", RIGHT?
Hiya!
I'm Rio Tennouji!

WHOA...
I'm into molecular biology!
I'm 8 years old!
ドン

SFX: BOW
I really hope we get along.
ER, YEAH.
EEEEH —?!

あとがき！

●クールジャパン。とゆうわけで、外国人の方々にもたいそう人気の「制服」だそうですが、こんな←ラクガキが出てきたので載せてみました。胸の部分苦しいとか言わない!!

●次巻からはips細胞編。りおちゃん先生大かっやくです！よろしくお願いしますv

Eighth ⑤

.staff.

やぶちんさん・且さん・
竹永くん・内山くん
健ちゃん・おかん・おとん
あざ――す!!

ガンガンコミックスJOKER

GC JOKER

EIGHTH

5

2011年5月21日　初版発行

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発行所
株式会社スクウェア・エニックス
〒151-8544　東京都渋谷区代々木3-22-7　新宿文化クイントビル3階
【編集】TEL 03-5333-1642
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印刷所
凸版印刷株式会社

担当編集
中川健

装幀
岩佐陽子

初出／月刊ガンガンJOKER
2010年12月号～2011年3月号掲載

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ISBN978-4-7575-3237-3　C9979
Printed in Japan

04
EIGHTH

TL: Castellan
Typesetter: TKS
Cleaner: Zack
PR/QC: Juubun

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